Romanian coins

Next coin

1 ban 1867

Next coin

15 mm diameter, 1 g, copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%, flat edge, outer pearl circle denomination "1 BANU" and year 1867 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right); below the ribbon that ties the branches lies the mint name

inscription ROMANIA and the Romanian coat of arms; outer pearl circle

Mintage: 2.500.000 coins (Heaton)
Mintage: 2.500.000 coins (Watt & Co.)

About the mints where the 1867 coins were struck

The four coins struck in 1867 were made by two mints: Heaton in Birmingham and Watt & Co. also from Birmingham, so that there are two sets of slightly different coins. On the lower reverse we can read the mint name, Heaton or Watt & Co., except for the 1 ban coin struck by Heaton which for lack of space has only an **H** and for the 1 ban struck at Watt & Co., marked with **Watt & C**. The sides are placed as on medals, the normal viewing positions pointing likewise.

The coins bearing year 1867 were released into circulation at January 1st 1868.

Watt & C - Watt & Co. mint

Heaton mint

About the proof like coins of the 1867 series

We received the following information from Mr. **Cristian Ciuplea**:

"I have another information, about the Heaton/Watt coins: probably some proof like coins (the Americans offer them directly as proofs) will appear on the Romanian numismatic market. All of them are Heaton! About three years ago a lot of more than 1000 pieces was put to sale, offered compactly, from Switzerland. The lot came from England, being the collection of the Heaton Mint, probably the last part."

It seems that the Heaton owners had a very developed numismatic sense, because they retained the first coins struck with new dies, pieces that have a very good quality and proof like aspect. Today, after more than 100 years, these coins are much more valuable. The patterns for 50 bani, 1 leu 1869 and 2 lei 1869 coins, presented in the pattern section of our site, are from the retail sale of the Heaton collection too.

About the gold replica of 1 BANU 1867 (issued in 2007)

Into 2007 140 years were commemorated from the voting of "Legea pentru înfiinţarea unui nou sistem monetar şi pentru fabricarea monetelor naţionale" (Law for establishing a new monetary system and for manufacturing national coins) by the Parliament of Romania. With this occasion the National Bank of Romania issued a set of four replicas of 1 BANU, 2 BANI, 5 BANI and 10 BANI 1867.

All the replicas are made from gold (with title 99.9%) and have the same diameter as the original coins. The replicas are heavier than the original coins: 1.75, 3.5, 8.75 and 17.2 grams instead of 1, 2, 5 and 10 grams. Each coin was issued in a mintage of 250 pieces. Under the ribbon that ties the laurel and oak branches lies an R from replica instead the name of the mint.

The replicas are made at B.U. quality. The term BU - brilliant uncirculated - means uncirculated coin with the mint luster intact. In order to obtain a BU coin the dies are carefully polished. The blanks are also polished, in this way the coins having a luster far superior to the luster of the common uncirculated coins.

The 1 ban 1867 coin is represented on the obverse of the silver 10 lei 2008 coin dedicated to the Romanian economist Costin Kiriţescu.

About the word BANU

This 1 ban piece is the only coin where the name of the **leu** divisional unit appears as **banu**. In an early stage of the Romanian language evolution all words ending in a consonant had also a sounded **u** at the very end. With time this final **u** disappeared from pronunciation. At the times this coin was struck the orthography pretended to be etymological, and the Academy had not succeeded in imposing a unitary writing. Short final U appears on this piece and the golden 20 lei in 1868.

Short final u was eliminated almost totally by brochure "Regule ortografice" printed by the Romanian Academy in 1904, edited again in 1907 as "Ortografia Academiei Române declarată oficială şi obligatorie a se întrebuinţa de toate autorităţile Statului" meaning "Romanian Academy Orthography Declared Official and Compulsory to Be Used by All State Authorities", in 1919, 1924 and 1932. The singular of the nouns ending in **i** kept a while the short final u that today has completely disappeared. The reform in 1903 banned the strange letters î of e, of u and of o - ê, û, ô.

The 1 banu 1867 coins pictures above and the detailed pictures with the mint names are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 bani 1867

Next coin

20 mm diameter, 2 g, copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%, flat edge, outer pearl circle denomination "2 BANI" and year 1867 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right); below the ribbon that ties the branches lies the mint name

inscription ROMANIA and the Romanian coat of arms; outer pearl circle

Mintage: 5.000.000 coins (Heaton)
Mintage: 5.000.000 coins (Watt & Co.)

About the mints where the 1867 coins were struck

The four coins struck in 1867 were made by two mints: Heaton in Birmingham and Watt & Co. also from Birmingham, so that there are two sets of slightly different coins. On the lower reverse we can read the mint name, Heaton or Watt & Co., except for the 1 ban coin struck by Heaton which for lack of space has only an H. The sides are placed as on medals, the normal viewing positions pointing likewise.

Watt & Co. mint

Heaton mint

About the gold replica of 2 BANI 1867 (issued in 2007)

Into 2007 140 years were commemorated from the voting of "Legea pentru înfiintarea unui nou sistem monetar si pentru fabricarea monetelor nationale" (Law for establishing a new monetary system and for manufacturing national coins) by the Parliament of Romania. With this occasion the National Bank of Romania issued a set of four replicas of 1 BANU, 2 BANI, 5 BANI and 10 BANI 1867.

All the replicas are made from gold (with title 99.9%) and have the same diameter as the original coins. The replicas are heavier than the original coins: 1.75, 3.5, 8.75 and 17.2 grams instead of 1, 2, 5 and 10 grams. Each coin was issued in a mintage of 250 pieces. Under the ribbon that ties the laurel and oak branches lies an R from replica instead the name of the mint.

The replicas are made at B.U. quality. The term BU - brilliant uncirculated - means uncirculated coin with the mint luster intact. In order to obtain a BU coin the dies are carefully polished. The blanks are also polished, in this way the coins having a luster far superior to the luster of the common uncirculated coins.

The 2 bani 1867 coins pictures above and the detailed pictures with the mint names are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 bani 1867

Next coin

25 mm diameter, 5 g, copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%, flat edge, outer pearl circle denomination "5 BANI" and year 1867 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right); below the ribbon that ties the branches lies the mint name

inscription ROMANIA and the Romanian coat of arms; outer pearl circle

Mintage: 12.500.000 coins (Heaton)
Mintage: 12.500.000 coins (Watt & Co.)

About the mints where the 1867 coins were struck

The four coins struck in 1867 were made by two mints: Heaton in Birmingham and Watt & Co. also from Birmingham, so that there are two sets of slightly different coins. On the lower reverse we can read the mint name, Heaton or Watt & Co., except for the 1 ban coin struck by Heaton which for lack of space has only an H. The sides are placed as on medals, the normal viewing positions pointing likewise.

Watt & Co. mint

Heaton mint

Watt & Co. mint - nickel essay, double thickness

Watt & Co. mint - nickel essay, double thickness

About the proof like coins of the 1867 series

We received the following information from Mr. **Cristian Ciuplea**:

"I have another information, about the Heaton/Watt coins: probably some proof like coins (the Americans offer them directly as proofs) will appear on the Romanian numismatic market. All of them are Heaton! About three years ago a lot of more than 1000 pieces was put to sale, offered compactly, from Switzerland. The lot came from England, being the collection of the Heaton Mint, probably the last part."

It seems that the Heaton owners had a very developed numismatic sense, because they retained the first coins struck with new dies, pieces that have a very good quality and proof like aspect. Today, after more than 100 years, these coins are much more valuable. The patterns for 50 bani, 1 leu and 2 lei 1869 coins, presented in the pattern section of our site, are from the retail sale of the Heaton collection too.

About the gold replica of 5 BANI 1867 (issued in 2007)

Into 2007 140 years were commemorated from the voting of "Legea pentru înfiintarea unui nou sistem monetar si pentru fabricarea monetelor nationale" (Law for establishing a new monetary system and for manufacturing national coins) by the Parliament of Romania. With this occasion the National Bank of Romania issued a set of four replicas of 1 BANU, 2 BANI, 5 BANI and 10 BANI 1867.

All the replicas are made from gold (with title 99.9%) and have the same diameter as the original coins. The replicas are heavier than the original coins: 1.75, 3.5, 8.75 and 17.2 grams instead of 1, 2, 5 and 10 grams. Each coin was issued in a mintage of 250 pieces. Under the ribbon that ties the laurel and oak branches lies an R from replica instead the name of the mint.

The replicas are made at B.U. quality. The term BU - brilliant uncirculated - means uncirculated coin with the mint luster intact. In order to obtain a BU coin the dies are carefully polished. The blanks are also polished, in this way the coins having a luster far superior to the luster of the common uncirculated coins.

The pictures of the 5 bani 1867 coins above and the detailed pictures with the mint names are present through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

10 bani 1867

Next coin

30 mm diameter, 10 g, copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%, flat edge, outer pearl circle
denomination "10 BANI" and year 1867 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right); below the ribbon that ties the branches lies the mint name

inscription ROMANIA and the Romanian coat of arms; outer pearl circle

Mintage: 12.500.000 coins (Heaton)
Mintage: 12.500.000 coins (Watt & Co.)

About the mints where the 1867 coins were struck

The four coins struck in 1867 were made by two mints: Heaton in Birmingham and Watt & Co. also from Birmingham, so that there are two sets of slightly different coins. On the lower reverse we can read the mint name, Heaton or Watt & Co., except for the 1 ban coin struck by Heaton which for lack of space has only an H. The sides are placed as on medals, the normal viewing positions pointing likewise.

The first coin pictured on the page was struck at Watt & Co. and the second at Heaton mint.

Watt & Co. mint **Heaton mint**

About the proof like coins of the 1867 series

We received the following information from Mr. **Cristian Ciuplea**:

"I have another information, about the Heaton/Watt coins: probably some proof like coins (the Americans offer them directly as proofs) will appear on the Romanian numismatic market. All of them are Heaton! About three years ago a lot of more than 1000 pieces was put to sale, offered compactly, from Switzerland. The lot came from England, being the collection of the Heaton Mint, probably the last part."

It seems that the Heaton owners had a very developed numismatic sense, because they retained the first coins struck with new dies, pieces that have a very good quality and proof like aspect. Today, after more than 100 years, these coins are much more valuable. The patterns for 50 bani, 1 leu and 2 lei 1869 coins, presented in the pattern section of our site, are from the retail sale of the Heaton collection too.

About a 10 bani 1867 coin with the sides placed oppositely to the common circulation coins

Mr. **Ispir Ovidiu** sent us the following pictures.

The images present a 10 bani 1867 coin struck at Heaton that does not feature medallic placement of the sides, as the common circulation 10 bani pieces do. According to the Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog in 2009, unmedalic placement is specific to essays. So it is very likely this piece to be an essay.

An essay of 10 bani 1867

Several essays and patterns for this coin are known. The pictures of the white metal essay below are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of La Galerie Numismatique.

About the gold replica of 10 BANI 1867 (issued in 2007)

Into 2007 140 years were commemorated from the voting of "Legea pentru înfiintarea unui nou sistem monetar si pentru fabricarea monetelor nationale" (Law for establishing a new monetary system and for manufacturing national coins) by the Parliament of Romania. With this occasion the National Bank of Romania issued a set of four replicas of 1 BANU, 2 BANI, 5 BANI and 10 BANI 1867.

All the replicas are made from gold (with title 99.9%) and have the same diameter as the original coins. The replicas are heavier than the original coins: 1.75, 3.5, 8.75 and 17.2 grams instead of 1, 2, 5 and 10 grams. Each coin was issued in a mintage of 250 pieces. Under the ribbon that ties the laurel and oak branches lies an R from replica instead the name of the mint.

The replicas are made at B.U. quality. The term BU - brilliant uncirculated - means uncirculated coin with the mint luster intact. In order to obtain a BU coin the dies are carefully polished. The blanks are also polished, in this way the coins having a luster far superior to the luster of the common uncirculated coins.

The pictures of the uncirculated 10 bani 1867 coin above are present through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.
The pictures of the proof like 10 bani 1867 coin above and the detailed pictures with the mint names are present through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1868

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 6.452 g,
gold 90%, copper 10%, flat edge
denomination "20 LEI" and year 1868 inside a wreath formed by oak branches, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I DOMNULŬ ROMÂNILORŬ" meaning "PRINCE OF THE ROMANIANS" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 100 or 200 coins

The pictures of the 20 lei 1868 coin above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Ponterio & Associates, Inc., Bowers and Merena Auctions.

About the original coin

The golden 20 lei coin of 1868 was struck in a very small number of pieces, one or two hundred (the sources contradicting each other), fact that renders it one of the greatest world numismatic rarities. Despite all these its value is estimated at as little as something between 5.000 $ and 10.000 $. Prince Carol I gave these coins as gifts to the Europe's crowned heads shortly subsequently to becoming the ruler of Romania, and also to his relatives and Romanian political chiefs. Of course, it is pointless to say that the coin did not circulate at all. Because it was never released for circulation, 20 lei 1868 coin is considered by many to be a pattern (Iliescu and Radovici in Monetele României - Coins of Romania, 2004, Schäffer - Stambuliu in Romania - designs, pattern coins and catalogue of issued coin, 2009). The pieces were struck - most probably - at State Mint in Bucharest. Other hypotheses assert that these pieces were struck at Paris or at Berlin.

It is a famous coin, the first golden one struck by the modern Romanian state.

A hard to believe yet dear to the Romanian numismatics legend states that some of these coins were buried in the time capsule at the foundation of the Peleş castle at Sinaia. The coin was struck in 1868, and the castle built five years later in 1873, having been meant to resemble the Sigmaringen castle (the Romanian royal dinasty belonged to the Sigmaringen strain of the Hohenzollern family).

We quote from the inauguration document of the castle, read on October 7th 1883 to the royal family: "I Carol I Prince and King and Elisabeth Queen. After two years of unrelenting endeavor struggling with an unstable realm crossed by springs, we have managed to put at the foot of the Bucegi Mountains the foundation of this building, in the year of salvation 1875, and of our reign the 9th. The construction was stopped in the times of the War for the Independence of Romania. We entered in this house of ours in the year of salvation 1883, and of our reign the 17th. We gave it the name of castle of Peleş."

You can see inside the picture at right castle Peleş from Sinaia (implied in the 20 lei coins' legend) and castle Sigmaringen as well, at left (Romanian stamp from 1939).

About the replica struck in 2005

In 2005 the National Bank of Romania issued a golden replica of the 20 lei 1868 coin. The replica and the original coin are almost similar, the only difference between them being the letter R under the effigy, letter that warns about its (replica).

The 2005 coins are BU, i.e. brilliant uncirculated. The term BU means an uncirculated coin with the mint luster intact. In order to obtain a BU coin the dies are carefully polished. The blanks are also polished, in this way the coins having a luster far superior to the luster of the common uncirculated coins.

The replica of 20 lei 1868 gold coin belongs to the **History of coin** series. To the same series belong two other replicas, one of gold koson and one of a coin-medal issued by Constantin Brâncoveanu in 1713.

replica struck by NBR in 2005
Maximum mintage: 250 pieces

under the effigy is placed an R from replica

aluminum essay of the replica

The pictures of the gold replica of the 20 lei 1868 coin and of the aluminum essay above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Florin L.**.

About the inscription on the coin

The inscription on the coin shows Carol I as prince of the Romanians, title chosen as to show that the Romanian state included only a share of the Romanians within its borders and its natural pretention to become a state of the entire nation. Because many millions of Romanians lived outside the country's borders in Transylvania, Banat and Bucovina this title bothered the government of Austria-Hungary, that saw there claims over their possessions inhabited by the Romanians (many Romanians lived also in the bigger part of Basarabia, still held by the Russian Empire after the Crimean War of 1856). On the following coins issued by Romania (1 silver leu and 20 gold lei from 1870) Carol I became DOMNUL ROMANIEI (PRINCE OF ROMANIA), being represented with the effigy on the coins. The presence of the effigy was deemed by Turkey as a sign of Romania's independence tendencies and, as consequence of Turkish protests, the effigy on the silver coins issued between 1872 and 1876 was replaced by the coat of arms or the crown of Romania.

The title REGELE ROMANILOR - KING OF ROMANIANS - was retaken by Romanian king only after the Great Union of 1918, that rejoined Basarabia, Bucovina, Transylvania and Banat with the old kingdom, the title lasting on the coins until Romania became republic (1947) as result of Soviet occupation.

About the orthography used on the coin

The inscription on this coin uses the short final **u** (mark by a diacritical sign) at the end of words DOMNUL and ROMANILOR. In an early stage of the Romanian language evolution all words ending in a consonant had also a sounded **u** at the very end. With time this final **u** dissapeared from pronounciation. At the times this coin was struck the ortography pretended to be etimological, and the Academy had not succeded in imposing a unitary writing. Short final U appears on this piece and on 1 ban 1867 in written as **BANU** .

Short final U was eliminated almost totally by brochure "Regule ortografice" printed by the Romanian Academy in 1904, edited again in 1907 as "Ortografia Academiei Române declarată oficială şi obligatorie a se întrebuinţa de toate autorităţile Statului" meaning "Romanian Academy Ortografy Declared Official and Compulsury to Be Used by All State Authorities", in 1919, 1924 and 1932. The singular of the nouns ending in **i** kept a while the short final u that today is completely disappeared. The reform in 1903 banned the strange letters î of e, of u and of o - ê, û, ô.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1870

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge, outer pearl circle
denomination "1 LEU" and year 1870 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right); below the ribbon that ties the branches lies the initial C standing for engineer C.J. Cândescu, the organizer and first director of the Bucharest mint

inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 400.000 coins

This is the first 1 leu coin struck in Romania. The coins were struck at the Bucharest mint starting with February 24th 1870. Accordingly to monograph "Monede şi bancnote româneşti" there are pieces with sides facing either commonly (inverted) or the medal fashion (upright). There are also pieces featuring the Bucharest mint ensign, letter B. In the monograph "Monetele României" (Coins of Romania, by Octavian Iliescu and Paul Radovici, Editura Enciclopedică, Bucharest, 2004) the 1 leu 1870 B is not a regular coin but an essay.

Mr. **Cristian Ciuplea** informs us that the pieces with B are extremely rare.

The pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **J.M.**.

We can figure how much was such a piece worth noting that in 1868 a student scholarship rised to 37 lei, money with which the student barely sated oneself once a day. In 1873 the scholarship was raised to 60 lei.

The name **leu** originates in the design of the taler (leeuwendaalder in Dutch, a.k.a. löwentaler or lion-taler) holding 75% silver alloy, weighing 27 grams, struck in the northern region of the Low Countries since 1575; the last were struck in 1713. The first lion-taler appeared in the times of the rebellion against the Spaniards and pictured on one side the image of a rampant lion, the coat of arms of the Netherlands (the United Provinces). These talers were struck for many years and were issued by many Dutch provinces and cities, e.g. Dordrecht, Deventer, Kampen, Utrecht and Zwolle. The Dutch talers were used on a large scale in the commercial relations with the Levant.

These coins got to be called lei (plural for leu - lion) as the coat of arms pictures a lion. The coin was so wide spread in our parts of the world that the coat of arms of the Netherlands pictured on it brought the name of leu (lion).

40.8 mm diameter, 26.4 g, silver 75%,
knight wearing helmet with panache and cloak, at his feet shield with a rampant lion on it; between an inner and outer circle the inscription
MO·ARG·PRO:CO· FOE·BELG·TRA

rampant lion; between inner and outer pearl circle the motto of the United Provinces of Netherlands and the year in which the coin was struck:
CONFIDENS·DNO·NON·MOVETUR·1639·

About the legends that appear on the Dutch lion-taler

The legend MO[NETA] ARG[ENTEA] PRO[VINCIARUM] CO[N]FOE[DERATUM] BELG[ICARUM] TRA[IECTUM] means, in a free translation, "silver coin of the province of Utrecht from the Netherlands Confederation". The Latin name of the city and of the province of Utrecht is Traiectum ad Rhenum, meaning a crossing on Rhine River. The reference at Belgium appears because the territories of the Netherlands belonged in antiquity to the Roman province Belgica.

The motto of the United Provinces, CONFIDENS D[OMI]NO NON MOVETUR, can be freely translated by "those who trust in God shall not be moved“. It could be an allusion to the struggle of the Dutch people under the rule of William of Orange against the Spaniards.

In the Romanian Principalities these talers were very wide spread in the 17th century. At the end of the Middle Age leul (the lion) has turned into an account unit worth 40 paras (Turkish currency) and is still preserved till the present day. The law of 1867 stated that the leu is the national currency of Romania.

The Republic of Moldova (Romania's neigbour to the east), which is also a Romanian state, has since 1992, naturally, the same currency - leu, lei. To be told apart, this currency is called Moldavian lion.

The Bulgarians have the same lev, leva - lion, lions in Bulgarian. Some peoples believe that Albania inherited in the same fashion the name of its currency - lek, leka -, meaning lion in Albanian. (Another ethymology derives the lek from the name of Alexander the Great, Leka i Madh in Albanian).

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1870

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 6.452 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge denomination "20 LEI" and year 1870 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right); below the ribbon that ties the branches lies the initial C standing for engineer C.J. Cândescu, the organizer and first director of the Bucharest mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 5.000 coins

The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. Laurenţiu Grigorescu.

This is the second golden Romanian coin ever struck by the Romanian modern state. The first one (also a 20 lei, struck in 1868) was meant only for celebration and international recognition, 200 pieces having been minted only. This second one was properly destined for circulation, yet for undisclosed reasons only 5.000 pieces left the Bucharest Mint, inaugurated in the very same year 1870 (in Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog from 2009 is assumed that these coins were struck at Berlin, and Carol's effigy was engraved by Kullrich). Thus this 20 lei is again one of greatest rarities of Romanian numismatics. A piece as close to perfection as the one pictured above must consequently be worth a small fortune. We strongly believe the coin we display is one of the best remaining and we are proud to be able to picture such a collection's pride.

On the 1 silver leu and on 20 gold lei from 1870 the effigy of Carol I was represented on both coins. The presence of the effigy was deemed by Turkey as a sign of Romania's independence tendencies and, as consequence of Turkish protests, the effigy on the silver coins issued between 1872 and 1876 was replaced by the coat of arms or the crown of Romania.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 bani 1873, 1876

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 2.5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge ROMANIA, denomination "50 BANI", wreath formed by interlaced laurel and oak branches, outer pearl circle

crown and year 1873 inside a wreath formed by interlaced laurel and oak branches, below the ribbon that ties the branches STERN, the name of the engraver, aboved a portrait, sign used for coins struck at Brussels, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 4.810.000 coins in 1873
2.116.980 coins in 1876

Mintage: 4.810.000 coins in 1873 and 2.116.980 in 1876. Accordingly to monograph "Monede şi bancnote româneşti" there are pieces with sides facing either commonly (inverted) or the medal fashion (upright).

In Moldavia the 50 bani coin was also called dutcă (dutce at the plural) or dupcă, recalling of some small Russian and Polish silver coins that also circulated in the Romanian Principalities. In Walachia this small silver piece was also called băncuţă.

The coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Florin Andrei Lungu**.

The ensign used by José Allard mint in Brussels appearing on the values of 50 bani, 1 leu and 2 lei (1872 - 1876) is not a barbell, as pointed by the Romanian specific literature, yet it is a portrait. This fact is conspicuously noticeable only on perfectly preserved, mint state coins. Plane to see, **the barbell description provided by specific printed numismatic materials is wrong**. Of interest to see that the face or mask differs with the denomination value and the year of issue.

This ground shaking datum along the illustrative pictures accompanying it and the uncirculated coin pictures below are present on **Romanian coins** as courtesy of Mr **Radu Lissner**.

We received new info from Mr. **J.M.**. We quote from his letter: "The mintmark on the coins, struck at Brussels between 1872 and 1876, is actually the head of Saint-Michael, patron of the city of Brussels. This mintmark was used for several centuries up to the independence of Belgium in 1830, but disappeared then from the

Belgian coins, only to reappear again in the 1960s. It was, however, used on the coins struck for Romania in Brussels in 1872-1876, and on some essays of the same period made for Switzerland."

In the picture below details on the 50 bani 1873, 2 lei 1873 and 2 lei 1876 silver pieces are displayed (from left to right for the beholder).

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1873, 1874, 1876

Next coin

radu_lissner@yahoo.com

23 mm diameter, 5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge
ROMANIA, denomination "1 LEU", wreath formed by interlaced laurel and oak branches, outer pearl circle

Romanian coat of arms, year 1876, STERN, the name of the engraver and a portrait, sign used for coins struck at Brussels, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 4.443.393 coins in 1873
4.511.607 coins in 1874
225.000 coins in 1876

Mintage: 4.443.393 coins in 1873, 4.511.607 in 1874, 225.000 in 1876.
The 1873 and 1876 silver coins pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**. The 1874 coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.
The mintmark used for these coins is actually the head of Archangel Michael, patron of the city of Brussels (more info on the next or on the previous page).

A variant of the 1873 1 leu, quoted usually twice as the regular coin, is the so called "broken L" variant. The two pictures below capture the die imperfection; they are present on **Romanian coins** by the kind contribution of Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 lei 1872, 1873, 1875, 1876

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 10 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge
ROMANIA, denomination "2 LEI", wreath formed by interlaced laurel and oak branches, outer pearl circle

Romanian coat of arms, year 1873, STERN, the name of the engraver and a portrait, sign used for coins struck at Brussels, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 262.000 coins in 1872
1.745.000 coins in 1873
3.092.500 coins in 1875
653.255 coins in 1876

Mintage: 262.000 coins in 1872, 1.745.000 in 1873, 3.092.500 in 1875 and 653.255 in 1876. Accordingly to monograph "Monede şi bancnote româneşti" there are pieces with sides facing either commonly (inverted) or the medal fashion (upright).

About the mintmarks used on the silver coins series struck at Brussels between 1872 and 1876

The ensign of the José Allard mint in Brussell appearing on the values of 50 bani, 1 leu and 2 lei (1872 - 1876) is not a barbell, as pointed by the Romanian specific literature, yet it is a portrait. This fact is conspicuously noticeable only on perfectly preserved, mint state coins. Plane to see, **the barbell description provided by specific printed numismatic materials is wrong**. Of interest to see that the face or mask differs with the denomination value and the year of issue.

This ground shaking datum along the illustrative pictures accompanying it and the 2 lei 1873 pictures are present on **Romanian coins** as courtesy of Mr **Radu Lissner**.

We also received further trustworthy info from Mr. **J. M.**. We quote from his letter as we cannot put it better than himself: "The mint mark on the coins, struck at Brussels between 1872 and 1876, is actually the head of Saint-Michael, patron of the city of Brussels. This mint mark was used for several centuries up to the independence of Belgium in 1830, but disappeared then from the Belgian coins, only to reappear again in the 1960s. It was, however, used on the coins struck for Romania in Brussels in 1872-1876, and on some essays of the same period made for Switzerland." Also Mr. **J. M.** sent us the image of an 1872 piece without the mint ensign (below left).

In the picture (above right) details on the 50 bani 1873, 2 lei 1873 and 2 lei 1876 silver pieces are displayed (from left to right for the beholder).

Constantin Bacalbaşa about the 2 lei of 1872

Inside memoirs book "Bucureştii de altădată" (Bucharest of Yore) Constantin Bacalbaşa noted inside the Miscellaneous chapter of year 1872:

"In December 1872, the ministry of Finances brings from Belgium, for 25 million lei, a new silver coin, all pieces of 2 lei.

The newspapers criticize this transport for numerous reasons: weekly reliefed coin, ugly design and, above all, the figure of the prince that was on the old coins, dissappeared as result of Turkey's demand. Then the newspapers were asking why was the new coin cast in Belgium while the state had a well installed mint with special personnel?"

Indeed, on the silver 1 leu and golden 20 lei coins of 1870 the portrait of prince Carol had been represented. The presence of the effigy was deemed by Turkey as a sign of Romania's independence tendencies. As consequence of Turkish protests, the effigy was replaced by the coat of arms or the crown of Romania.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 bani 1879, 1880, 1881

Next coin

**20 mm diameter, 2 g, copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%, flat edge
denomination "2 BANI", ROMANIA, year 1879, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle**

inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

**Mintage: 500.000 coins in 1879
10.500.000 coins in 1880
1.250.000 coins in 1881**

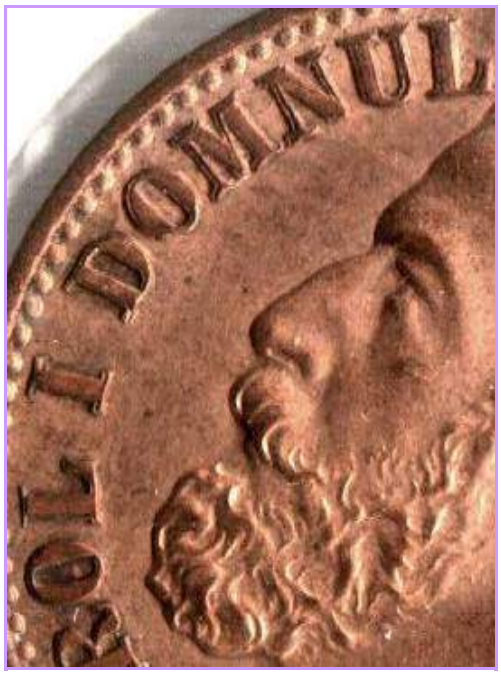
Mintage: 500.000 coins in 1879, 10.500.000 in 1880 and 1.250.000 in 1881. Several variants exist: of 1879 with broken C in CAROL, of 1879 having the diameter of

19.5 mm instead of 20 mm and of 1880 with letters C or A broken (in CAROL).

The good quality 2 bani 1879 and 1880 coins pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The pictures of 1880 coin (with broken C) are present on Romanian coins thanks to a kind contribution of Mr **Andru C**.

The pictures of an 1881 coin (rare and well priced in catalogs) and of the doubly struck coins are present on Romanian coins thanks to a kind contribution of Mr **Radu Lissner**.



The images above feature to striking errors of the 2 bani coin of 1880. The image at left shows both a legend and an effigy displacement. The coin at right features double imprinting for the legend, the effigy not being affected.

Mr. **Ispir Ovidiu** sent us the following pictures. The images present a 2 bani 1879 coin that features 8 parallel lines inside the ear.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 bani 1881

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 2.5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge denomination "50 BANI", year 1881, ROMANIA, Romanian coat of arms, letter V standing for Vienna mint and wheat ear, the sign of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 1.000.000 coins

In Moldavia the 50 bani coin was also called dutcă (dutce at the plural) or dupcă, recalling of some small Russian and Polish silver coins that also circulated in the Romanian Principalities. In Walachia it was also called băncuţă.

The silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1881

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge denomination "1 L", ROMANIA, year 1881, Romanian coat of arms, letter V standing for Vienna mint and wheat ear, the sign of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 1.800.000 coins

The uncirculated (UNC) silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **J. M.**.

Below is presented a very rare pattern of 1 leu 1881, that bears the B of the Bucharest Mint. The pattern belonged to the former collection C.C..

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 lei 1881

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 10 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge
denomination "2 L", ROMANIA, year 1881, Romanian coat of arms, letter V standing for Vienna mint and wheat ear, the sign of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 1.150.000 coins

The uncirculated 2 lei 1881 coin pictures above and the detail below are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

Premiere: 2 lei 1881 "with wrinkles". The wrinkles are very similar to the ones on 5 lei 1881 DOMN or on 100 lei 1943.

The coin has 4 wrinkles, clearly visible as linear proeminences, that appeared due to 4 notches on the die. The "wrinkles" appear in the ear, in the deepest zone of the coin. It is clear that is not a striking error.

Because all 2 lei of 1881 coins were minted in Austria-Hungary, at Vienna, we can conclude that the "wrinkle fashion" came to Romania from Austria!

The coin presented below belongs to the **G.F.** collection, Germany.

Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1880, 1881

Next coin

**37 mm diameter, 25 g, silver 90%,
copper 10%, grained edge
denomination "5 L", ROMANIA, year 1880, Romanian coat of arms,
letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle**

inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left. Along the outer pearl circle lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

**Mintage in 1880: 1.800.000 coins
Mintage in 1881: 2.200.000 coins**

The silver 5 lei 1880 coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

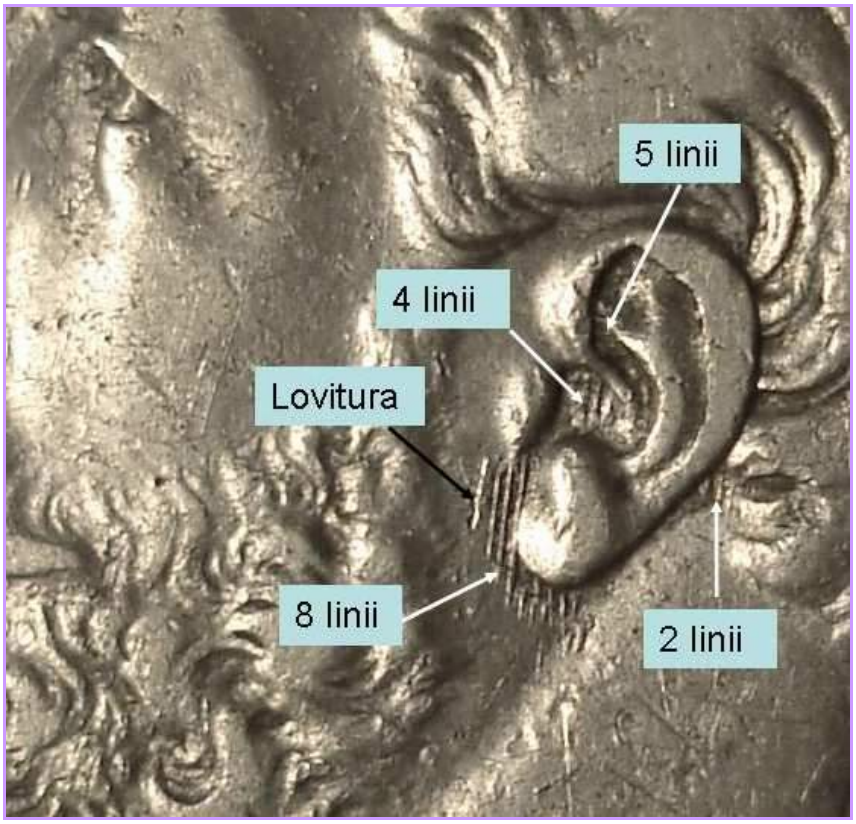
The 5 lei coin struck in 1880 has two variants. As shown in the pictures below, the name of the engraver appears either right below the neck or along the pearl circle. The second one is slightly rarer and is the only of all variants with Kullrich appearing this way.

right under the neck

along the pearl circle

We feature below a detail of a 5 lei of 1881 revealing a very interesting error. Eleven pearls (starting with letter L in CAROL, clockwise) are joined together. The surplus metal came from the coin edge, as result of a die flaw. The information reguarding this error as well as the explanatory picture were provided for **Romanian coins** by Mr. **Adrian Popovici**. He also sent us the images (below) of a fake 5 lei 1881 coin made from lead.

We received from Mr. **Radu Lissner** the image below and the following text:
Premiere: 5 lei 1881 (DOMN) with "wrinkles". Similar to 100 lei 1943 there is a newly dicovered variant, nobody knew about. Being more spectacular than the one with Mihai, it shows approximately the same type of notches on the die (that appears on the coin as proeminences). Unusual is the fact that the "wrinkles" appear in the ear, in the deepest zone of the coin. There are 4 hachured zones, 3 of them with parallel lines almost vertical, and the 4th with lines perpendicular to the others. The ulterior adding of lines on the coin is excluded and also the provenance from a struck error.



Mr. **Florin Lazar** sent us the 5 lei 1880 pictures and information presented below. The coin has an interesting feature: there are many parallel lines on the flat surface of the field. The lines are more obvious in the regions that are very close to the effigy and to the legend.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 bani 1882

Next coin

20 mm diameter, 2 g, copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%, flat edge denomination "2 BANI", year 1882, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 5.000.000 coins

There are several variants of this coin, with various broken letters.
The about uncirculated 2 bani from 1882 coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Lazăr Florin**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 bani 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885

Next coin

25 mm diameter, 5 g, copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%, flat edge
denomination "5 BANI", year 1882, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 5.000.000 coins in 1882
3.000.000 coins in 1883
8.400.000 coins in 1884
3.600.000 coins in 1885

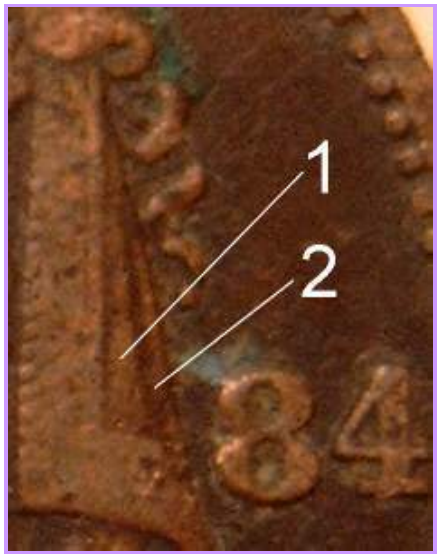
http://romaniancoins.org

Mintage: 1882 - 5.000.000 coins, 1883 - 3.000.000 coins, 1884 - 8.400.000 coins, 1885 - 3.600.000 coins.
The 5 bani 1882, 1883, 1884 and 1885 coins pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.
The pictures of the 5 bani 1884 (one fold) coin above appears on the site thanks to the kind permission of Mr **Radu Lissner**.
We also thanks to Mr **Cristian Ciuplea** and to Mr **C.P.**

On this 5 bani series the purple pavilion lined with ermine fur from the Romanian coat of arms was represented in two variants. On 1882 and 1883 coins (and maybe on

some 1884 coins) the pavilion has only one fold - variant named in the monograph Monede şi bancnote româneşti "one fold at the curtain". On the 1884 and 1885 coins the pavilion has two folds. Coins from 1884 without the engraver name also exist (we don't know the number of folds on this variant). In the detailed pictures below the two situations are presented.

one fold



two folds

5 bani 1882 - broken letters: U and the second L from KULLRICH

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 bani 1884, 1885

Next coin

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

18 mm diameter, 2.5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge
denomination "50 BANI", year 1884, wreath formed by interlaced laurel and oak branches, below letter B standing for the Bucharest mint, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 1.000.000 coins in 1884
200.000 coins in 1885

In 1884 1.000.000 coins were struck, in two variants, with and without the letter B, the sign of the Bucharest mint. In 1885 were struck only 200.000 coins. These coins are very similar each other and with the 50 bani coins struck in 1894, 1900 and 1901. They are hard to find.

It is very interesting to observe that the effigies used on 50 bani 1884 and 1885 are not identical. The two coins differ not only by the year. Two of the most obvious differences between the effigies were presented in the pictures below (at left, 20 lei 1883, at right 5 lei 1883). The tip of the beard and the wavy line of the neck differ most apparently. The effigy on the 50 bani 1884 was used, among others, on the 5 lei 1881-1885 series. The effigy on the 50 bani 1885 was used on 1 leu 1884 and 1885 and also on 20 de lei 1883.

The silver coins pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **J.M.**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1884, 1885

Next coin

**23 mm diameter, 5 g, silver 83.5%,
copper 16.5%, grained edge
denomination "1 L", year 1884, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle**

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

**Mintage: 1.000.000 coins in 1884
400.000 coins in 1885**

1.000.000 coins were struck in 1884 and only 400.000 in 1885. There are pieces of 1884 with denomination letter L broken. As you can see in the images above, for the 1884 and 1885 1 leu coins the same Carol I effigy was used. For the 50 bani pieces from the same years (presented on the previous page of the site) two different effigies were used.

The uncirculated 1884 silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

The uncirculated 1885 silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **J. M.**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1881

Next coin

37 mm diameter, 25 g, silver 90%, copper 10%, grained edge
denomination "5 L", ROMANIA, year 1881, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 570.000 coins

The silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **J. M.**.
The 5 lei coin struck after the proclamation of the kingdom in 1881 has two variants. The one known as the thin G variant has a different set of letters, all thiner then the leters on the other variant, but the difference is obvious just for the letter G. It is also slightly rarer.

thin G

broad G

Below is displayed a detail of a five lei piece from 1881 featuring the G in REGE broken. It may be a matrix flaw (most probably) or even a new variant.

Below are pictures of a fake 5 lei 1881, that copy the thin G variant. The pictures were sent to us by Mr. **C.P.** (thanks!). The fake has 37 mm in diameter and is possibly made from zinc.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1881 - 1885

Next coin

37 mm diameter, 25 g, silver 90%, copper 10%
Embossed on the edge: PATRIA SI DREPTUL MEU
meaning HOMELAND AND MY RIGHT
denomination "5 L", year 1883, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 1.230.000 coins in 1881
1.100.000 coins in 1882
2.300.000 coins in 1883
300.000 coins in 1884
40.000 coins in 1885

The silver coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. Radu Lissner, as well as the images of the three 5 lei pieces (1881, 1882 and 1885) below.

The 5 lei coin was struck in 1883 with several dies resulting in several variants of the coin.

The vertical axis of the shield is straight.

The vertical axis of the shield has a slight inclination from upper right to lower left. More visible, the upper crown is bigger and has other ornamentation.

Kullrich is 6 mm long and also other less apparent particularities - the vertical axis is straight -

Kullrich is 6.5 mm long and also other less apparent particularities - the vertical axis is straight -

variant 1 for upper crown ornamentation

variant 2 for upper crown ornamentation

The series of 5 lei coins of 1881-1885 has several different markings on the edge. As seen on the images below, there are four variants with five or six stars having five rays each and one featuring six ray stars only. Two of the five ray variants were obtained by rotating one star by 180 degrees (variants known under the denomination "a star sits on a ray").

PATRIA ★ SI|★ DREPTUL ★|MEU★★★★★| on 1881 and 1882 coins (69b MBR)

PATRIA ★ SI|★ DREPTUL ★|MEU★★★★★| on 1881 coins (69c MBR)

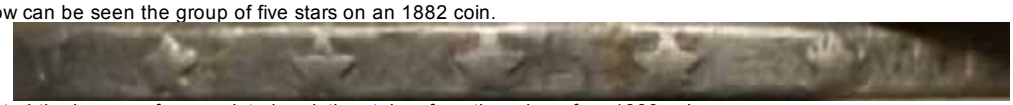
PATRIA ★ SI|★ DREPTUL ★|MEU★★★★★★| on 1881, 1883 , 1884 and 1885 coins(69d MBR)

PATRIA ★ SI|★ DREPTUL ★|MEU★★★★★★| on 1881 coins (69e MBR)

PATRIA ★ SI|★ DREPTUL ★|MEU★★★★★★| on 1881 coins (69f MBR)

meaning HOMELAND AND MY RIGHT

In the image below can be seen the group of five stars on an 1882 coin.



Below are presented the images of a complete inscription, taken from the edge of an 1883 coin.

Struck in 2.300.000 pieces, year 1883 is the most common of the series. Year 1885 is the rarest - only 40.000 pieces. Having a diameter of 36.5 millimeters, the 1885 5 lei is also the smallest 5 lei struck under Carol I. The second in rarity is the 1884 piece (300.000) and third the 1882 (1.100.000). In 1881 1.230.000 were struck, frankly saying, this later reminded mintage comprising all five variants of edge engraving.

Below there are three superb pieces of 1881, 1882 and 1885. It is easy to notice the different pattern of the crowns atop the tent. The 1881 coin is the variant 69e from MBR, with six stars, the fifth star sitting on a ray. Thanks again to Mr. Radu Lissner!

We received from Mr **Radu Lissner** the following information related to the 5 lei of 1882 above and the different variants of the 5 lei pieces and not only:

The issue of establishing the boundary between variants and striking errors. A mintage is composed of several batches struck over the length of a year accordingly to the needs of the market seen by the National Bank. For each batch new dies not identical to the preceeding ones were used, with or without the intention of the engraver.

By example at 5 lei 1882 the first batch of coins was manufactured on an 1881 die by modifying the year. The coins are easily recognizable - they feature B, the two digits 8 and digit 2 in the year broken at atop. The other coins of 1882 are struck much better and feature slightly different tent and crown shapes. (The scan that I sent you with 5 lei 1882 is of this first variant with digits broken atop left and cracked die.)

The images of the 5 lei coin minted in 1884 (below) are present on the site through the kind permission of Mr **Florin Andrei Lungu**.

A variant of 5 lei 1882

We quote from a message from Mr. Cătălin Gavrilă:

[...] a variant of 5 lei 1882 coin. It is about a coin that, in the year emplacement, features digits 8 and 2 slightly farther apart than the normal type coin. The outer pearl circle can serve as orientation marks that can decide the length between the two digits (three or two pearls). Whether or not several die sets for year 1882 can be taken into account it is plain to understand by checking the inclination of the vertical shield axis - the variant with 8 and 2 farther apart features the axis pitched (from upper right lower left), similarly to the situation of the 1883 piece of 5 lei (already on the site). Unlike the 5 lei 1883, there are no differences in the design of the crown atop the coat of arms. No dissimilarity was noted on the reverse either.

The variant is slightly rarer (the year itself 1882 is rarer, being difficult to find a 1882 piece in good condition); for clarifying I sought on the web (ebay, okazii, etc.), I think I found one more besides mine comparing to five or six regular pieces.

I deem that 5 lei 1884 or 1885 can also feature variants, except for, due to their rarity, it is difficult to have two such different pieces one next to the another in order to have them compared and eventually identified as such. Due to the small mintage it is also possible that such variants did not exist at all.

I send in attachement, for comparison, the pictures of the two coins.

The images above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Cătălin Gavrilă**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1883 (1884), 1890

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 6.452 g, gold 90%, copper 10%
On the edge: PATRIA SI DREPTUL MEU
meaning HOMELAND AND MY RIGHT
denomination "20 LEI", year 1883, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 185.290 coins with year 1883
196.000 coins with year 1890

Mintage for these gold coins: 150.000 in 1883, 35.290 in 1884 and 196.000 in 1890. The coins minted in 1884 bear the year 1883.
The 20 lei 1883 gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.
The 20 lei 1890 gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Lazăr Florin**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 ban 1888

Next coin

**15 mm diameter, 1 g, bronze, flat edge
denomination "1 BAN", year 1888, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle**

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

The 1 ban 1888 coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor. The coin was sold for over 900 euros on Ebay in May 2012.

The mintage figures for this coin is 500 pieces, after monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Romanian Coins and Banknotes, Buzdugan G., Luchian O., Oprescu C., Sport-Turism Publishing House, Bucharest, 1977).

Monetele României (Coins of Romania, Iliescu O., Radovici P., Encyclopaedic Printing House, Bucharest, 2004) consider that these pieces are only tokens, and the mintage is unknown. The 1 ban 1888 pieces were distributed at several balls organized by the Royal House of Romania, in fund raising actions for charity. Such 1 ban coin could be obtained for 20 lei.

One variant was reported: gilded 1 ban 1888. Of course, 1 ban 1888 can be considered to be a coin - a special one -, and not only because it was struck at State Mint of Romania. The case of this piece is resembling the one of the contemporary anniversary coins that are sold by the National Bank of Romania at prices much higher than the face value (even 50 - 100 times), and never enter into actual monetary circulation (in spite of the fact that, in theory, they can be used in payments).

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

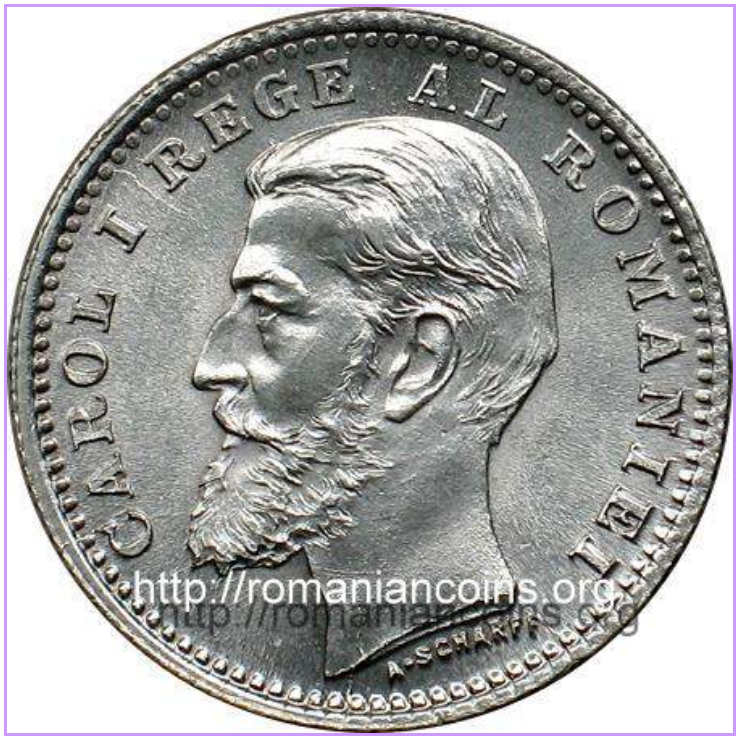
50 bani 1894, 1900, 1901

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 2.5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge
denomination "50 BANI" and year 1894 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right), outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head to the left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies A. SCHARFF, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 600.000 coins in 1894
3.838.000 coins in 1900
194.205 coins in 1901



18.5 mm diameter, year 1900

Mintage: 600.000 coins in 1894, 3.838.000 in 1900 and 194.205 in 1901. According to the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, Iliescu and Radovici, 2004), the mintage of 3.838.000 coins is for years 1900 and 1901 together. The 1894 coins were struck at Brussels and the coins from the other years at Hamburg. The silver used for the Hamburg coins seems to be from the used coins of the '70. For year 1900 a variant is known at which some of the branches' elements are missing.

The pictures of 50 bani 1894 coin appears on the site thanks to the kind permission of Mr **Cristian Ciuplea**.

Alike the 1 leu and 2 lei 1901 pieces, the 50 bani pieces of 1901 are made by modification of the year on the dies manufactured in 1900. As consequence the two digits of 1 differ one from the other in dimension on all values (information received from Mr **Radu Lissner**).

The silver 50 bani 1900 and 1901 coins pictures are present on this page through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

In Moldavia the 50 bani coin was also called dutcă (dutce at the plural) or dupcă, recalling of some small Russian and Polish silver coins that also circulated in the Romanian Principalities. In Walachia it was also called băncuţă.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1894, 1900, 1901

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge denomination "1 L", year 1894, 1900 or 1901, ROMANIA, Romanian coat of arms, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies A. SCHARFF, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 1.500.000 coins in 1894
798.800 coins in 1900
369.614 coins in 1901

Mintage: 1.500.000 coins in 1894, 798.800 in 1900 and 369.614 in 1901. According to the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, Iliescu and Radovici, 2004), the mintage of 798.800 coins is for years 1900 and 1901 together. The 1894 coins were struck at Brussels and the coins from the other years at Hamburg. The silver used for the Hamburg coins seems to be from the used coins of the '70.

Alike the 50 bani and 2 lei pieces, the 1 leu pieces of 1901 are made by modification of the year on the dies manufactured in 1900. As consequence the two digits of 1 differ one from the other in dimension on all values (information received from Mr **Radu Lissner**). He also sent us the pictures of the coins above.

We can figure how much was such a piece worth by noting that in 1898 a student scholarship rose to 100 lei.

A rare variant of 1 leu 1894 coin

Below is presented a variant of 1 leu 1894. The last three letters from engraver's name, RFF from SCHARFF, are shifted below the rest with almost half of the height of a letter.

The coin pictures below are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

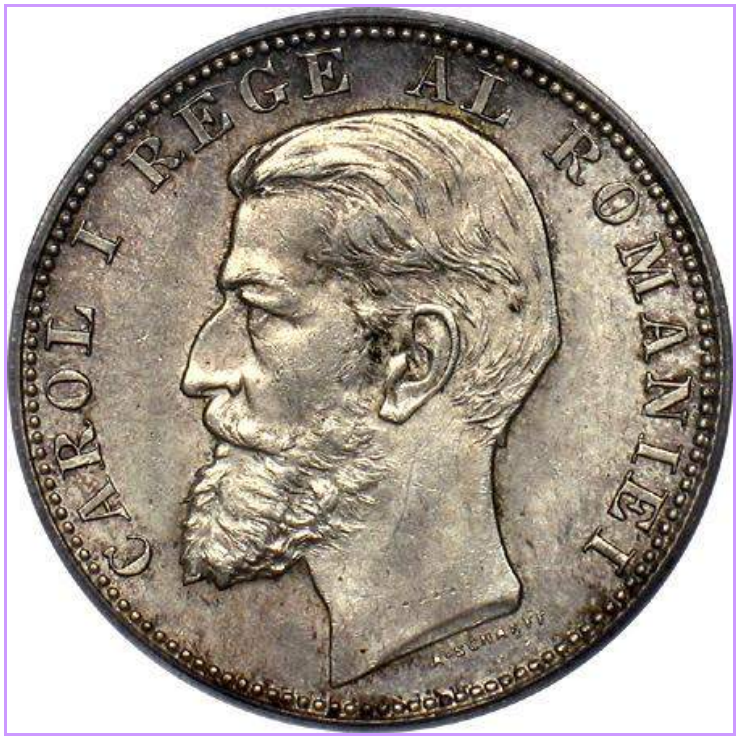
2 lei 1894, 1900, 1901

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 10 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge
denomination "2 L", year 1894, ROMANIA, Romanian coat of arms, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies A. SCHARFF, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 600.000 coins in 1894
87.279 coins in 1900
12.476 coins in 1901



In 1894 600.000 pieces were struck in Brussels, in 1900 only 87.279 and finally in 1901 just as few as 12.476, the later two mintages in Hamburg. According to the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, Iliescu and Radovici, 2004), the mintage of 87.279 coins is for years 1900 and 1901 together. All these 2 lei issues are hard to find today. Those struck in 1901, with just 12.476 pieces, are among the rarest Romanian modern coins. The silver used for the Hamburg coins seems to be from the used coins of the '70.

The 2 lei 1894 silver coin pictures above are present on this page through the kind permission of Mr. **J. M.**.

The 2 lei 1900 coin pictures are present on this page through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

Alike the 50 bani and 1 leu pieces, the 2 lei pieces of 1901 are made by modification of the year on the dies manufactured in 1900. As consequence the two digits of 1 differ one from the other in dimension on all values (information received from Mr **Radu Lissner**). The silver coin pictures at right (mintage: only 12.461 pieces) were also sent for this page by Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

It is said that fraudulently tooled pieces exist, apparently displaying the rare 1901 year - in fact digit 1 was mischievously cut from the last zero of a 1900 piece of 2 lei! Such a modified coin came from Mr. C. and is presented at left.

Romanian numismatics knows lots of fakes. There are the counterfait (or bogus) pieces, as would be the "mărţişor" coins of 1 ban 1883 and 1 ban 1888, replicas pretending genuineness and quite common on the market.

The frauds against the state are more numerous. We are talking about fake money which imitated better or worse the official issues and which circulated effectively. Some were obtained through striking, employing methods resembling the ones used in the mint processess and fakes that were cast (molded). The cast fakes have porous surface and corrupt details, due to the technological problems.

Usually these counterfaits are made of a different alloy and their diameter is also different. Silver coin fakes are sometimes silver gilt.

Below are the images of a fake 2 lei 1894 made from lead. The pictures are present on this page through the kind permission of Mr. **Adrian Popovici**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 ban 1900

Next coin

15 mm diameter, 1 g, copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%, flat edge
denomination "1 BAN", ROMANIA, year 1900, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name

Mintage: 20.000.000 coins

Although bearing the Romanian **B** (standing for Bucharest), the 1 ban coins from 1900 were stricken in Hamburg. Există o variantă cu litera R de la ROMANIA întreruptă.

The 1883 and 1888 variants are rather theoretical. 500 hundred pieces were struck in each of these two years and gilt in order to be used as "mărţişoare" (March ensigns) by the royal family or to be given away as protocol by king Carol - the 1888 ones were covered in gold for sure, the others just doubtfully.

An explanation is required. "Mărţişorul" is an adornment born on the chest on March 1st only - giving and wearing it is an entirely Romanian and a both ancient and living tradition of genuine Roman origin. It's not a Romanian custom only since the Bulgarians borrowed it in the past fifty years or so - thusly leading us to three implied countries in this spring welcoming custom, as the Republic of Moldova and Romania are as one, if not politically, at least in all matters concerning folklore, language and ancient heritage.

These March ensigns or garments, these "mărţişoare", differ from the 1900 coin type in their 5 bani like obverse (5 bani from 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885), i.e. mainly the lack of word **Romania** and the differently engraved coat of arms (winding tent braids, distinctness not restricted only to fringes though). The interest raised by these pieces is then to be accounted for their apart pattern.

We personally do not consider that these pieces struck in 1883 and 1888, although numismatic, should deserve to be classified as coins. Let alone their small quantity, these pieces did never enter circulation. The 1900 coin on the other hand was struck in twenty million pieces.

Currently there are to be found several fakes and replicas pretending authenticity of the 1883 and 1888 pieces. We do not advize their acquiring at all.

Above you can see the pictures of a rudimentary fake of the 1 ban piece of 1888, the pictures having been made available to **Romanian coins** by the kindness of **Mr Adrian Popovici**.

Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 bani 1900

Next coin

20 mm diameter, 2 g, copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%, flat edge denomination "2 BANI", ROMANIA, year 1900, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 20.000.000 coins

Although bearing the Romanian **B** (standing for Bucharest), the 2 bani coins from 1900 were struck in Hamburg.

During the reign of Carol I, likewise in the kingdom, coins of 2 bani were struck in 1882 too. The former belong to a another type, differing from the later in their 5 bani like obverse (5 bani from 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885), i.e. mainly the lack of word **Romania** and the differently engraved coat of arms (winding tent braids, distinctness not restricted only to fringes though).

The brilliant uncirculated coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 bani 1900

Next coin

19 mm diameter, 3 g, copper 75%, nickel 25%, flat edge, outer pearl circle
denomination "5 BANI", · ROMANIA ·

the steel crown of Romania and year 1900 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right), outer pearl circle

Mintage 20.000.000 coins.

Struck at Brussels. Two variants of this coin exist, one of them featuring the cross bearing globe above with an inclination to the left.
The coin pictures above are present on this page through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.
The coin pictures below are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

Romanian coins

Previous coin

10 bani 1900

Next coin

22 mm diameter, 4.5 g, copper 75%, nickel 25%, flat edge denomination "10 BANI", · ROMANIA · ; outer pearl circle

the steel crown of Romania and year 1900 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right); a ribbon ties the branches; outer pearl circle

Mintage 15.000.000 coins.

These coins were struck at Brussels, in Belgium.
The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 bani 1900

Next coin

25 mm diameter, 7 g, copper 75%, nickel 25%, flat edge, outer pearl circle denomination "20 BANI", · ROMANIA ·

the steel crown of Romania and year 1900 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right); a ribbon ties the branches; outer pearl circle

Mintage 2.500.000 coins.

Struck at Brussels. Two or three variants of this coin exist, differing in crown circle ornaments and crown design.
The pictures of the coin above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.
The coin pictures below are present on this page through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1901

Next coin

**38 mm diameter, 25 g, silver 90%,
copper 10%, grained edge
denomination "5 L", year 1901, Romanian coat of arms, letter B and wheat ear, the signs of Romanian mint, outer pearl circle**

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies KULLRICH, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 82.460 coins

The diameter is one millimeter larger than the one of the previous 5 lei issues. Although bearing the Romanian **B** (standing for Bucharest), the 5 lei coins from 1901 were struck in Hamburg. According to the book Monetele României (Coins of Romania, Iliescu and Radovici, 2004), the mintage of this coin was 68.850 pieces.

The magnificent silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 bani 1905, 1906

Next coin

19 mm diameter, 2.5 g, copper 75%, nickel 25%, flat edge
denomination "5 BANI", year 1906, two pentagonal separating signs, outer pearl circle

crown and ROMANIA on a ribbon, outer pearl circle

Mintage 1905: 2.000.000 coins (Brussels - no mintmark)
Mintage 1906: 48.000.000 coins (Brussels - no mintmark)
24.000.000 coins (Hamburg, J mintmark)

without mintmark

At Brussels were struck 2.000.000 coins in 1905 and 48.000.000 in 1906. 24.000.000 coins were struck at Hamburg, in 1906.

The small value coins struck in 1906 were minted in two mints. We chose to picture the coins featuring a J below the ribbon, because the other set has no distinctive signs. The J marked coins were struck in Hamburg and the ones with no markings in Brussels. Accordingly to MBR (Romanian Coins and Banknotes, 1977), both sets were designed by Anton Scharff (1845-1903, chief engraver of the Austrian Mint of Vienna). No Hamburg coins were struck in 1905.

The first European coins with hole in the center were struck in 1901 in Belgium: 5 and 10 centimes cupro-nickel coins, type Michaux. As we can see, the hole fashioned coins arrived quickly in Romania.

The coins pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The pictures above were sent to us by Mr. **C. Ciuplea**, to which we are grateful.
The first coin is a gold essay, without hole.
The second picture set represents a 5 bani 1906 J coin, practically uncirculated, struck with a cracked die, so that the coin features 5 outbursting lines, 2 of which are directly visible. A bit eccentric, the hole is oval, the outer rim being emphasized over about 60% of the circumference.

The image above presents a coin struck in 1906 at Hamburg with a broken die. The picture was made available to **Romanian coins** by Mr Cătălin Gavrilă.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

10 bani 1905, 1906

Next coin

22 mm diameter, 4 g, copper 75%, nickel 25%, flat edge
denomination "10 BANI", year 1905, two pentagonal separating signs, outer pearl circle

crown and ROMANIA on a ribbon, outer pearl circle

Mintage 1905: 10.820.000 coins (Brussels - no mintmark)
Mintage 1906: 24.180.000 coins (Brussels - no mintmark)
17.000.000 coins (Hamburg, J mintmark)

At Brussels were struck 10.820.000 coins in 1905 and 24.180.000 in 1906. 17.000.000 coins were struck at Hamburg, in 1906.

The small value coins struck in 1906 were minted in two mints. We chose to picture the coins featuring a J below the ribbon, because the other set has no distinctive signs. The J marked coins were struck in Hamburg and the ones with no markings in Brussels. Both sets were designed by A. Scharff. No Hamburg coins were struck in 1905.

The pictures of the coins above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

Click here to see a pattern of 10 bani 1905.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 bani 1905, 1906

Next coin

25 mm diameter, 6 g, copper 75%, nickel 25%, flat edge denomination "20 BANI", year 1906, outer pearl circle

crown and ROMANIA on a ribbon, outer pearl circle

Mintage 1905: 2.500.000 coins (Brussels - no mintmark)
Mintage 1906: 5.500.000 coins (Brussels and Hamburg)

At Brussels were struck 2.500.000 coins in 1905. 5.500.000 coins were struck in 1906, at Brussels and at Hamburg. Most probably at Hamburg were struck 3.000.000 coins.

The small value coins struck in 1906 were minted in two mints. We chose to picture the coins featuring a J below the ribbon, because the other set has no distinctive signs. The J marked coins were struck in Hamburg and the ones with no markings in Brussels. Both sets were designed by A. Scharff. No Hamburg coins were struck in 1905.

The coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Florin Andrei Lungu**.
The pictures of the uncirculated 20 bani 1905 coin below are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Cristian Ciuplea**.

The pictures of 20 bani 1906 Brussels below are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1906

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 5 g, silver 83.5%,
copper 16.5%, grained edge, outer pearl circle
denomination * 1 LEU *, the inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and prince CAROL I (with side whiskers) facing left. The side whiskers are barely visible even on excelent pieces. Under the neck lies A MICHAUX, the engraver's name.

years * 1866 - 1906 *, the inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and king CAROL I facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies A. M. standing for A. Michaux, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 2.500.000 coins.

Under the neck lies A. MICHAUX, the engraver's name.

The uncirculated silver coins pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Romanian coins and banknotes, by Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) the signature of the engraver Alphonse Michaux (1860-1928, chief engraver of the Brussels Mint between 1895 and 1926) placed under the effigy of the young prince Carol is noted to be **A.Michaux**, with a point after A. Mr **Cristian Ciuplea** tell us that 1 leu coins from 1906 have two variants. Only approximately 10% of coins have a poins after A from Alphonse, the rest being without point (as is the coin presented on this page).

In the picture at right is presented a detailed wiev of a coin with dot after A. The coin belonged to the former C.C. collection.

The silver and gold coins struck in 1906 were issued to celebrate the fortieth year of reign for king Carol I of Romania. Minted in Brussels, they were designed by Alphonse Michaux.

This highly impressive coin set features the following values: 1 leu, 5 lei, 12 1/2 lei, 20 lei, 25 lei, 50 lei and 100 lei. To the best of our knowledge, these coins circulated effectively, the lesser ones at least. Part of the silver coins of 1906 were struck with silver from older used coins that were melted down (face value of coins melted down: 1.700.000 lei - information from Mr. **J. M.**).

The forty years of reign of Carol I were also celebrated through a ten value philatelic issue. Below is one postal stamp picturing Carol in 1866 and in 1906.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1906

Next coin

38 mm diameter, 25 g, silver 90%, copper 10%, grained edge, outer pearl circle
Obverse: denomination * 5 LEI *, the inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and prince Carol I (with side whiskers) facing left. The side whiskers are barely visible even on excelent pieces. Under the neck lies A. MICHAUX, the engraver's name.

Reverse: years * 1866 - 1906 *, the inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and king Carol I facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies A. M. standing for A. Michaux, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 200.000 coins.

The silver and gold coins struck in 1906 were issued to celebrate the fortieth year of reign for king Carol I of Romania. Minted in Brussels, they were designed by Alfons Michaux.
This highly impressive coin set features the following values: 1 leu, 5 lei, 12 1/2 lei, 20 lei, 25 lei, 50 lei and 100 lei. To the best of our knowledge, these coins circulated effectively, the lesser ones at least. Part of the silver coins of 1906 were struck with silver from older used coins that were melted down (face value of coins melted down: 1.700.000 lei - information from Mr. **J. M.**).

The silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.
The silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The forty years of reign of Carol I were also celebrated through a ten value philatelic issue. Below is one postal stamp picturing Carol in 1866 and in 1906.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

12 1/2 lei 1906

Next coin

**20 mm diameter, 4.0325 g, gold 90%,
silver 8.5%, copper 1.5%, grained edge, outer pearl circle
denomination "12 1/2 LEI", crowned heraldic eagle holding cross in its beak, sword and sceptre in its talons, bearing banner with the sentence
"PRIN STATORNICIE LA ISBINDA", meaning THROUGH FAITHFULNESS TO VICTORY**

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI·1866·1906" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and king CAROL I bust wearing military clothes and orders facing left and A. MICHAUX below the left shoulder (the engraver's name), outer pearl circle

Mintage: 32.000 coins.

The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The silver and gold coins struck in 1906 were issued to celebrate the fortieth year of reign for king Carol I of Romania. Minted in Brussels, they were designed by Alfons Michaux.

This highly impressive coin set features the following values: 1 leu, 5 lei, 12 1/2 lei, 20 lei, 25 lei, 50 lei and 100 lei. To the best of our knowledge, these coins circulated effectively, the lesser ones at least.

The design of crowned heraldic eagle, holding cross in its beak, sword and sceptre in its talons, bearing banner with sentence "PRIN STATORNICIE LA ISBINDA", is almost identical to the one of Order Carol I, established the very same year 1906.

Mr. **J. M.** informs us that two variants of 50 lei 1906 exists. We quote from his message:

"The gold coins of 50 lei of 1906 exist in two varieties, i.e. with a red and with a yellower colour. This difference was intentional, in the sense that after a first strike in red gold (consisting of an alloy of 900‰ gold and 100‰ copper), the Romanian government asked that part of the copper of the alloy be replaced by silver, in order to obtain a yellower colour, thus better resembling the coins of 4 ducats of Austria, made of 986‰ pure gold. The alloy of these yellow coins is: 900‰ gold, 85‰ silver and 15‰ copper; this alloy was furthermore found to be more suitable for striking these flat coins, and was also used for all the pieces of 12.5 and 25 lei.

Mintage figures for the two types of the 50 lei are as follows: red gold: 8,000 - yellow gold: 20,000."

Below are the pictures of a very rare essay, made from silver (weighing 3.9 grams), from the **G.F.** collection, Germania.

Below are the pictures of a brass essay - present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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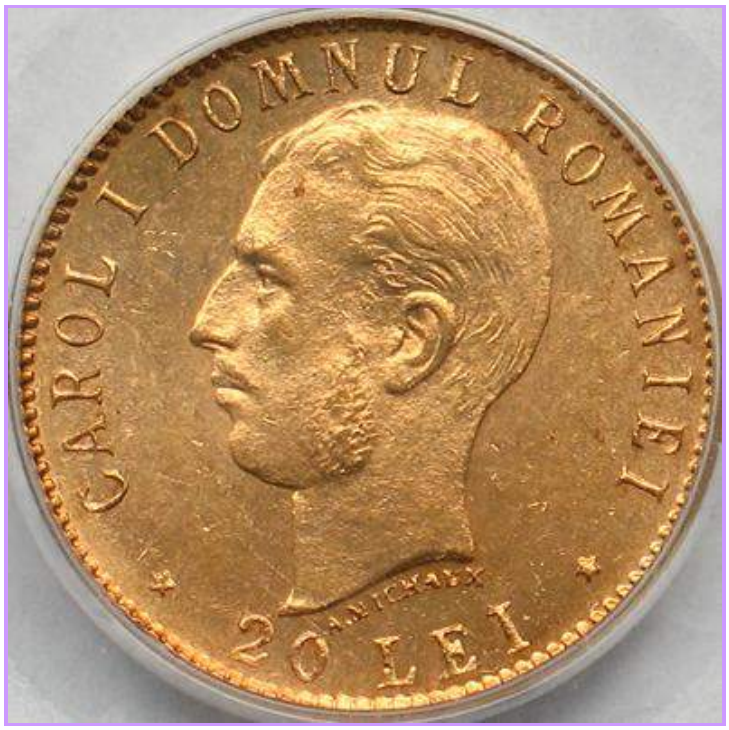
Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1906

Next coin



21 mm diameter, 6.452 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge, outer pearl circle denomination * 20 LEI *, the inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and prince CAROL I (with side whiskers) facing left. Under the neck lies A. MICHAUX, the engraver's name.

years * 1866 - 1906 *, the inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and king CAROL I facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies A. M. standing for Alfons Michaux, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 15.000 coins.

The silver and gold coins struck in 1906 were issued to celebrate the fortieth year of reign for king Carol I of Romania. Minted in Brussels, they were designed by Alfons Michaux.

This highly impressive coin set features the following values: 1 leu, 5 lei, 12 1/2 lei, 20 lei, 25 lei, 50 lei and 100 lei. To the best of our knowledge, these coins circulated effectively, the lesser ones at least.

A copper essay of this coin is presented below.

The gold coin and copper essay pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The forty years of reign of Carol I were also celebrated through a ten value philatelic issue. Below is one postal stamp picturing Carol in 1866 and in 1906.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

25 lei 1906

Next coin

30 mm diameter, 8.065 g, gold 90%, silver 8.5%, copper 1.5%, grained edge, outer pearl circle denomination "25 LEI", crowned heraldic eagle holding cross in its beak, sword and sceptre in its talons, bearing banner with the sentence "PRIN STATORNICIE LA ISBINDA", meaning THROUGH FAITHFULNESS TO VICTORY

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI · 1866·1906" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and king CAROL I bust wearing military clothes and orders facing left and A. MICHAUX below the left shoulder (the engraver's name), outer pearl circle

Mintage: 24.000 coins.

The silver and gold coins struck in 1906 were issued to celebrate the fortieth year of reign for king Carol I of Romania. Minted in Brussels, they were designed by Alfons Michaux.

This highly impressive coin set features the following values: 1 leu, 5 lei, 12 1/2 lei, 20 lei, 25 lei, 50 lei and 100 lei. To the best of our knowledge, these coins circulated effectively, the lesser ones at least.

The 25 lei 1906 gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

The design of crowned heraldic eagle, holding cross in its beak, sword and sceptre in its talons, bearing banner with sentence "PRIN STATORNICIE LA ISBINDA", is almost identical to the one of Order Carol I, established the very same year 1906.

Mr. **J. M.** informs us that two variants of 50 lei 1906 exists. We quote from his message:

"The gold coins of 50 lei of 1906 exist in two varieties, i.e. with a red and with a yellower colour. This difference was intentional, in the sense that after a first strike in red gold (consisting of an alloy of 900‰ gold and 100‰ copper), the Romanian government asked that part of the copper of the alloy be replaced by silver, in order to obtain a yellower colour, thus better resembling the coins of 4 ducats of Austria, made of 986‰ pure gold. The alloy of these yellow coins is: 900‰ gold, 85‰ silver and 15‰ copper; this alloy was furthermore found to be more suitable for striking these flat coins, and was also used for all the pieces of 12.5 and 25 lei.

Mintage figures for the two types of the 50 lei are as follows: red gold: 8,000 - yellow gold: 20,000."

The 25 lei 1906 white metal essay pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The forty years of reign of Carol I were also celebrated through a ten value philatelic issue. Below is one postal stamp picturing Carol in 1866 and in 1906.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 lei 1906

Next coin

40 mm diameter, 16.13 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge, outer pearl circle inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI · 50 LEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I astride, wearing travel suit, perhaps during the Bulgarian campaign in 1877-1878 (take note: it's PRINCE, not KING)

inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI · 1866-1906" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and king CAROL I bust wearing military clothes and orders facing left, A. MICHAUX over the left shoulder (the engraver's name), outer pearl circle

Mintage: 28.000 coins.

The silver and gold coins struck in 1906 were issued to celebrate the fortieth year of reign for king Carol I of Romania. Minted in Brussels, they were designed by Alfons Michaux.

This highly impressive coin set features the following values: 1 leu, 5 lei, 12 1/2 lei, 20 lei, 25 lei, 50 lei and 100 lei. To the best of our knowledge, these coins circulated effectively, the lesser ones at least.

The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

For a five year period on this page were displayed pictures through the kind permission of Mr. Clark Smith, numismatist and renowned specialist in world gold coins.

About the variants of the coin

Mr. **J. M.** informs us that two variants of 50 lei 1906 exists. We quote from his message:

"The gold coins of 50 lei of 1906 exist in two varieties, i.e. with a red and with a yellower colour. This difference was intentional, in the sense that after a first strike in red gold (consisting of an alloy of 900‰ gold and 100‰ copper), the Romanian government asked that part of the copper of the alloy be replaced by silver, in order to obtain a yellower colour, thus better resembling the coins of 4 ducats of Austria, made of 986‰ pure gold. The alloy of these yellow coins is: 900‰ gold, 85‰ silver and 15‰ copper; this alloy was furthermore found to be more suitable for striking these flat coins, and was also used for all the pieces of 12.5 and 25 lei.

Mintage figures for the two types of the 50 lei are as follows: red gold: 8.000 - yellow gold: 20.000."

The forty years of reign of Carol I were also celebrated through a ten value philatelic issue. Below is one postal stamp picturing Carol in 1866 and in 1906.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

100 lei 1906

Next coin

35 mm diameter, 32.26 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge, outer pearl circle denomination * 100 LEI *, the inscription "CAROL I DOMNUL ROMANIEI" meaning "PRINCE OF ROMANIA" and prince CAROL I (with side whiskers) facing right. Under the neck lies A. MICHAUX, the engraver's name.

years * 1866 - 1906 *, the inscription "CAROL I REGE AL ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and king CAROL I facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies A. M. standing for Alfons Michaux, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 3.000 coins.

The silver and gold coins struck in 1906 were issued to celebrate the fortieth year of reign for king Carol I of Romania. Minted in Brussels, they were designed by Alfons Michaux.

This Romanian gold coin is both huge and rare (3.000 pieces struck). In over mean condition its price exceeds 1.000$.

The highly impressive coin set features the following values: 1 leu, 5 lei, 12 1/2 lei, 20 lei, 25 lei, 50 lei and 100 lei. To the best of our knowledge, these coins circulated effectively, the lesser ones at least.

The 100 lei 1906 gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

For a long time pictures of 100 lei 1906 gold coin were shown on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. Clark Smith, numismatist and renowned specialist in world gold coins.

The forty years of reign of Carol I were also celebrated through a ten value philatelic issue. Below is one postal stamp picturing Carol in 1866 and in 1906.

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Romanian coins

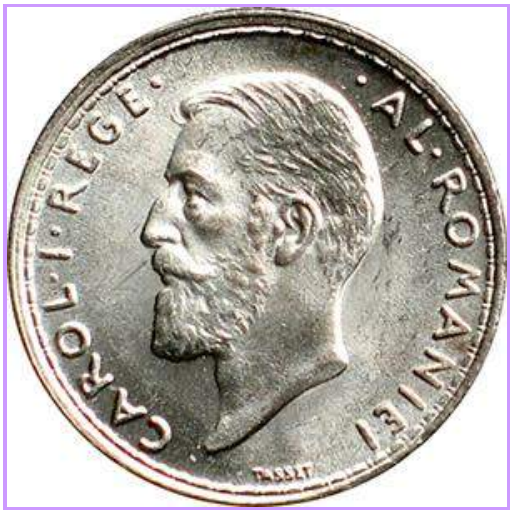
Previous coin

50 bani 1910, 1911, 1912, 1914

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 2.5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge
denomination "50 BANI", ROMANIA, year 1911, crown and olive branches

inscription "CAROL·I·REGE· ·AL·ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left. Under the neck lies TASSET, the engraver's name.



Year	Mint	Number of teeth on the edge	Mintage
1910	Brussels Hamburg	101 120	3.600.000
1911	Hamburg Brussels	120 101?	1.600.000 1.400.000
1912	Brussels	101	1.800.000
1914	Brussels Hamburg	101 120	1.600.000

The pictures of 50 bani 1911 and 1914 coins above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The coins struck at Brussels have the teeth on the edge with straight corners. The coins struck at Hamburg have teeth with round corners. The identification of the mint can be also done by counting the number of teeth on the edge of the coins. There are 120 teeth on the edge of the Hamburg 50 bani coins and 101 on the edge of the Brussels 50 bani coins.

Mr **Cristian Ciuplea** communicated us the following information: 50 bani coins were struck in 1911 at Brussels too, namely 1.400.000 pieces. In 1911 were struck at Hamburg struck 1.600.000 coins. Mr Ciuplea also published this information in German Münzen Revue in 2000. The situation is the same for 1 leu 1911: a batch of 300.000 coins were struck in 1911 at Brussels.

These coins were mainly struck with silver from older used coins that were melted down (especially coins of 5 lei, 5 millions of such coins having been melted down; total face value of coins thus melted: 28.280.000 lei - information provided by Mr. **J. M.**).

The picture of 50 bani 1910 coin above appear on the site thanks to the kind permission of Mr **Cristian Ciuplea**.

In spite of the fact that Romania was never a member of the Latin Monetary Union, it used the Union's coin types. So, Romania is among the European countries that a long time ago fought for a common currency on the continent and subsequently the **leu** must be accounted among the precursors of **euro**.

The Latin Monetary Union did not only mean common values for the coin series, (almost) common exchange rates, alike diameters, titles and weights for the entire coinage of its members or of the countries that used its coin types. It often meant common themes for the mintage products, as proven by the pictures of the Romanian 50 bani coin struck in 1914 and of the French 1 franc from 1915 placed side by side below for comparison. There was also a 50 centimes coin (1/2 franc in fact), with the same design.

Notice the olive branch and **travel on** to the next page for further similarities.

Back to selection page!

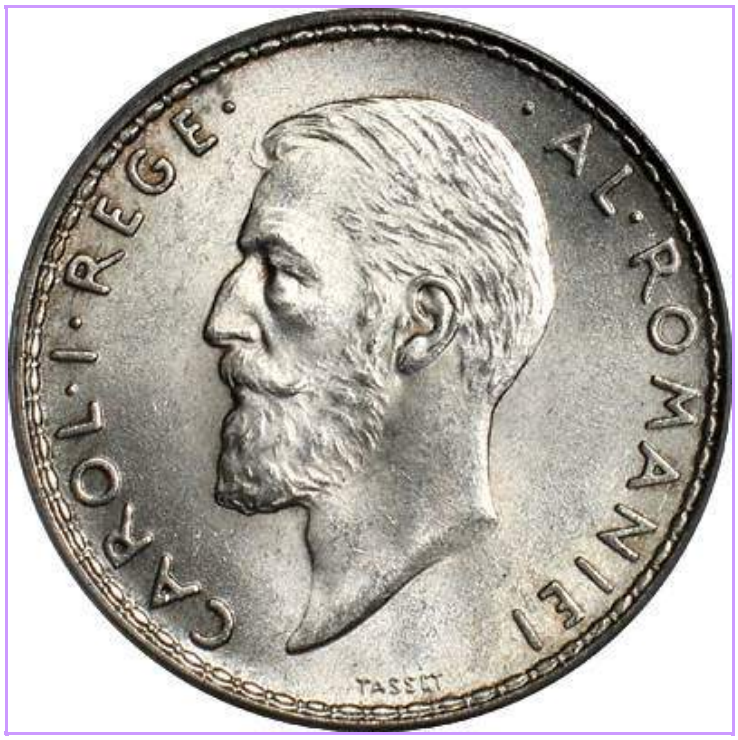
Romanian coins

Previous coin

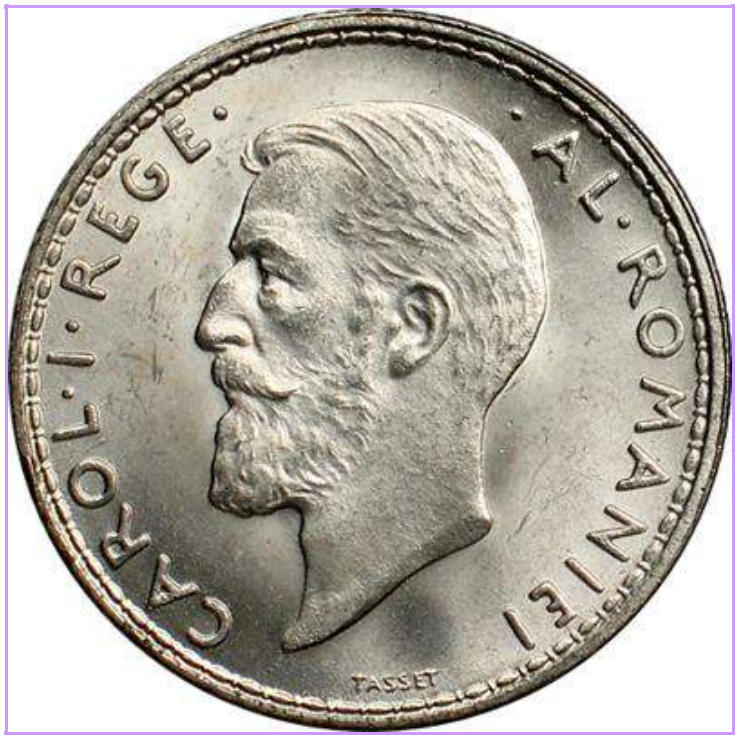
1 leu 1910, 1911, 1912, 1914

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 5 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge
denomination "1 LEU", ROMANIA, year 1911 and and spinster woman holding spindle and spinning yarn, with distaff and sickle in her belt; at lower left BASSARAB, along the rim (ensign of engraver Costache Bassarab)



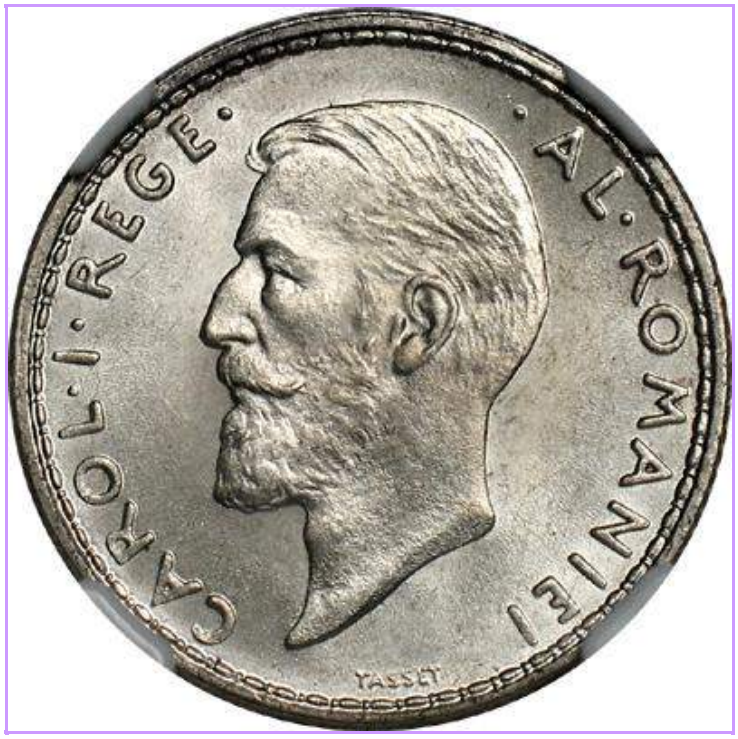
inscription "CAROL·I·REGE· ·AL·ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left. Under the neck lies TASSET, the engraver's name.



ROMANIA
1
LEU
1912

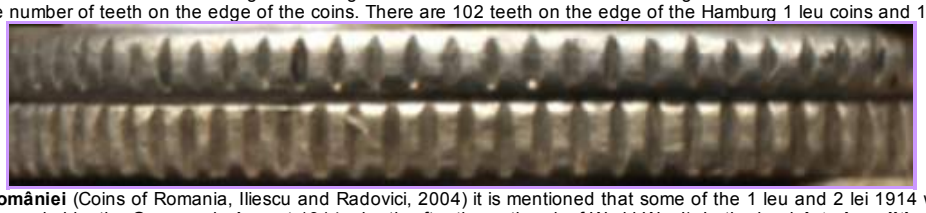
CAROL·I·REGE·
·AL·ROMANIEI
TASSET

ROMANIA
1
LEU
1914


CAROL·I·REGE·
·AL·ROMANIEI
TASSET

Year	Mint	Number of teeth on the edge	Mintage
1910	Brussels Hamburg	106 102	4.600.000
1911	Hamburg Brussels	102 106?	2.273.065 300.000
1912	Brussels	106	3.540.000
1914	Brussels Hamburg	106 102	4.282.935

The coins struck at Brussels have the teeth on the edge with straight corners. The coins struck at Hamburg have teeth with round corners. The identification of the mint can be also done by counting the number of teeth on the edge of the coins. There are 102 teeth on the edge of the Hamburg 1 leu coins and 106 on the 1 leu Brussels coins.



In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) it is mentioned that some of the 1 leu and 2 lei 1914 were struck in 1915, at Hamburg (Belgium's capital city had been occupied by the Germans in August 1914, shortly after the outbreak of World War I). In the book **Istoria politicei noastre monetare şi a Băncii Naţionale 1880-1914**, written by C.I. Băicoianu (History of Our Monetary Policy and of the National Bank 1880-1914, Bucharest, 1932), it is mentioned that in 1915 1.300.000 pieces of 1 leu and 691.734 pieces of 2 lei were struck.

Mr **Cristian Ciuplea** communicated us the following information: 1 leu coins were struck in 1911 at Brussels too, namely 300.000 pieces. In 1911 were struck at Hamburg struck 2.273.065 coins. Mr Ciuplea also published this information in German Münzen Revue in 2000. The situation is the same for 50 bani 1911: a batch of 1.400.000 coins were struck in 1911 at Brussels.

These coins were mainly struck with silver from older used coins that were melted down (especially coins of 5 lei, 5 millions of such coins having been melted down; total face value of coins thus melted: 28.280.000 lei - information provided by Mr. **J. M.**).

The 1 leu 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1914 silver coins pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of anonymous donors.

Similar themes on Romanian and French coins

The Latin Monetary Union did not only mean common values for the coin series, (almost) common exchange rates, alike diameters, titles and weights for the entire coinage of its members or of the countries that used its coin types. It often meant common themes for the mintage products, as proven by the pictures of the Romanian 2 lei coin struck in 1914 and of the French 1 franc from 1915.

Notice the woman, the rustic attire, the horizon line, the bare feet, even the same incuse fashion of stamping the engraver's name (O. Roty in the case of the French engraver).

Please also notice the netly superior design of the Romanian coin, which happens to be among the most beautiful.

In spite of the fact that Romania was never a member of the Latin Monetary Union, it used the Union's coin types. So, Romania is among the European countries that a long time ago fought for a common currency on the continent and subsequently the **leu** must be accounted among the precursors of **euro**.

The adoption of Latin Monetary Union coin types influenced the Romanians in various domains and over many facts of their lives. The word **franc** is even now a synonym of **leu**, and that's because the leu and its other brethren currencies were rated identically for so long. If today this meaning is less used, I remember my grandfather saying not so seldom things like: "It's worth five hundred francs." or "I ran out of francs.". Francs had then yet another, larger signification, of **money** in Romanian, just like **parale** - the plural for the name of a small Turkish coin that circulated in the Principalities in the 19th century: **para**.

Back to selection page!

Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 lei 1910, 1911, 1912, 1914

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 10 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, grained edge denomination "2 LEI", ROMANIA, year 1910, and spinster woman holding spindle and spinning yarn, with distaff and sickle in her belt; at lower left BASSARAB, along the rim (ensign of engraver Costache Bassarab)

inscription "CAROL·I·REGE· ·AL·ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA" and CAROL I head facing left. Under the neck lies TASSET, the engraver's name.

The effigy of king Carol I on the coin series of 1910-1914 was engraved by the French artist Ernest Paulin Tasset (1839-1919).

These coins were mainly struck with silver from older used coins that were melted down (especially coins of 5 lei, 5 millions of such coins having been melted down; total face value of coins thus melted: 28.280.000 lei - information provided by Mr. **J. M.**).

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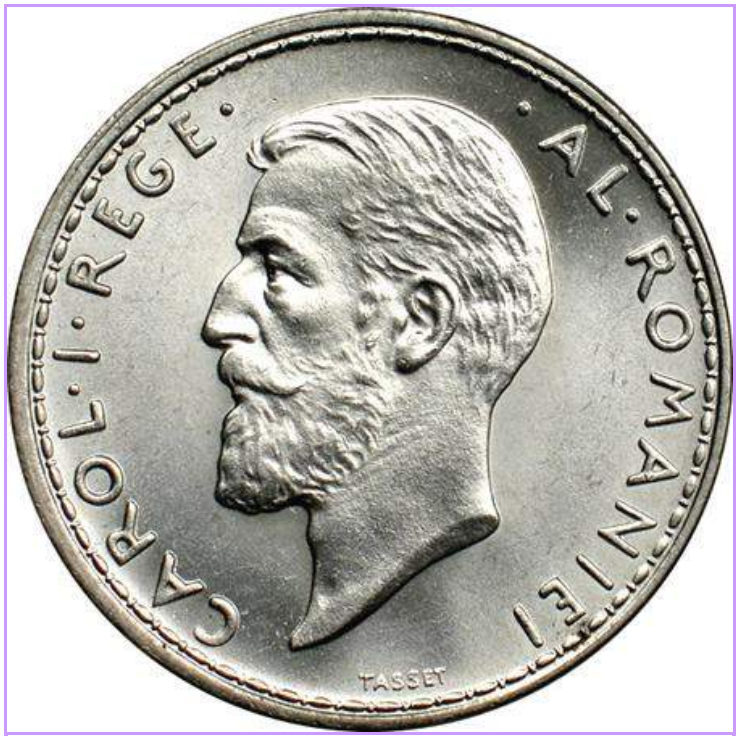
About the number of teeth on the edge on 2 lei 1910-1914 coins

The coins struck at Brussels have the teeth on the edge with straight corners. The coins struck at Hamburg have teeth with round corners. The identification of the mint can be also done by counting the number of teeth on the edge of the coins. In 1914 coins were struck with 120 teeth (in Hamburg) and with 124 teeth (in Brussels).

Year	Mint	Number of teeth on the edge	Mintage
1910	Brussels Hamburg	? 121	1.800.000
1911	Hamburg	120	1.000.000
1912	Brussels	124	1.500.000
1914	Brussels Hamburg	124 120	2.452.000

The pictures of 2 lei coins above appear on the site thanks to the kind permission of Mr **Cristian Ciuplea**.
The pictures of 2 lei 1911 and 1914 coins below are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.



Similar themes on Romanian and French coins

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

25 bani 1921

Next coin

19 mm diameter, 0.896 g, aluminum, flat edge
denomination "25 BANI", crown and, hardly visible, HUGUENIN (incuse).

wing spread eagle holding a cross in its beak, ROMANIA and year 1921

Mintage: 20.000.000 coins

Struck in Switzerland, at Huguenin Fréres & Co., Le Locle.

Both the 25 and the 50 bani coins struck in 1921 come in two slightly different variants. The inner bore has either 4 or 4.5 mm across. The one you see above was drilled with 4 mm.

The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The images of essay below are present on the site by the kind contribution of MR **Florin L.**.

At the left of digit 1 in 1921 the stamped monogram **HF** can be observed, bearing a special proof that this essay was manufactured in Switzerland, at Huguenin Frères & Co., in the small locality of Le Locle near the border with France.

The regular coins have only inscription **HUGUENIN** incuse on the face with the value.

The series of 25 and 50 bani in 1921 could have been continued in 1922 with pieces of 1 leu, 2 and 5 lei (not issued, eventually). Patterns of higher values can be seen here.

These patterns have the same **HF** monogram incuse in the same area of the coins.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 bani 1921

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 1.203 g, aluminum, flat edge
denomination "50 BANI", crown and, hardly visible, HUGUENIN (incuse).

wing spread eagle holding a cross in its beak, ROMANIA and year 1921

Mintage: 30.000.000 coins

Struck in Switzerland, at Huguenin Fréres & Co., Le Locle.

Both the 25 and the 50 bani coins struck in 1921 come in two slightly different variants. The inner bore has either 4 or 4.5 mm across. The one you see above was drilled with 4.5.

The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

A pattern for 50 bani 1922 can be seen clicking here.

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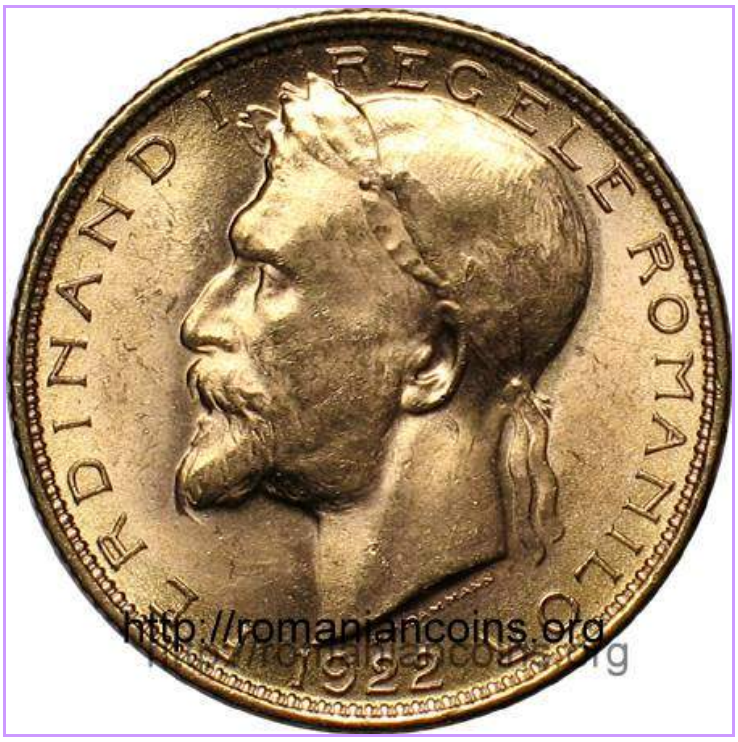
Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1922

Next coin

**21 mm diameter, 6.452 g, gold 90%,
copper 10%, grained edge
denomination 20 LEI, ROMANIA and middle coat of arms of the country, outer pearl circle**



effigy of the king crowned with a laurel wreath, facing left (or right in heraldic perspective), year 1922 and inscription "FERDINAND I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "FERDINAND I KING OF ROMANIANS", outer pearl circle. Under the effigy's neck lies inscription P. M. DAMMANN, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 300.000 coins

About the 1922 coin set

Struck in Great Britain at London Royal Mint, in 1928 or 1929 (after Octavian Iliescu and Paul Radovici, Monetele României, 2004), although antedated in 1922. The decree for the issuing of these coins was published in the Official Gazette on June 4th 1927. King Ferdinand died on July 20th the same year.

The coin pictured here belongs to a four coin set of 20, 25, 50 and 100 lei. 20 and 100 lei share common design, the same for 25 and 50. The entire set was engraved by the renowned French artist Paul Marcel Dammann (1885 - 1939). The catalog values of king Ferdinand gold coins indicate that a lot of them were not released. Mr. **J. M.** suggests that a large part of the mintage was melted, maybe to strike other coins.

The coins were issued to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the coronation of Ferdinand I and Mary as sovereigns of the now entire Great Romania. Through the three Unions of 1918 Romania became again wholly complete. The Romanians had been brought together by Michael the Brave for the first time in 1600, that being the reason for which Romanians called World War I the Nation **Re**completion War. The October 1922 coronation took place at Alba Iulia, in the heart of Transylvania, just like it did the first time in 1600 to add deepest signification.

The war victoriously brought to its end, king Ferdinand was depicted laureate.

The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

In 2008 the National Bank of Romania issued a replica of 20 lei 1922 gold coin, for the 90th anniversary of the Great Union from 1st of December 1918.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

25 lei 1922

Next coin

30 mm diameter, 8.065 g, gold 90%, silver 7.5%, copper 2.5%, grained edge
legend "FERDINAND I REGELE ROMANILOR - 25 LEI" meaning "FERDINAND I KING OF THE ROMANIANS - 25 LEI" and half profile crowned effigy of the king to the left (for the beholder); next to the right shoulder P. M. DAMMANN, name of the engraver, outer pearl circle

legend "MARIA REGINA ROMANILOR - 1922 -" meaning "MARY QUEEN OF THE ROMANIANS - 1922 -" and half profile crowned effigy of the queen to the right (for the beholder), outer pearl circle

Mintage: 150.000 coins

About the 1922 coin set

Struck in Great Britain at London Royal Mint, in 1928 or 1929 (after Octavian Iliescu and Paul Radovici, Monetele României, 2004), although antedated in 1922. The decree for the issuing of these coins was published in the Official Gazette on June 4th 1927. King Ferdinand died on July 20th the same year.

The coin pictured here belongs to a four coin set of 20, 25, 50 and 100 lei. 20 and 100 lei share common design, the same for 25 and 50. The entire set was engraved by the renowned French artist Paul Marcel Dammann (1885 - 1939). The catalog values of king Ferdinand gold coins indicate that a lot of them were not released. Mr. **J. M.** suggests that a large part of the mintage was melted, maybe to strike other coins.

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About the crown worn by Queen Marie at her crowning

The crown worn by Queen Marie at the Alba Iulia crowning, at October 15th 1922, appears on the 25 lei and 50 lei coins in this set. The crown was manufactured at Paris, at the jewelry firm "Falize", after the sketches of the Romanian painter Costin Petrescu. He inspired himself from the crown worn by Lady Elena - Despina (wife of Neagoe Basarab, ruler of Walachia between 1512 and 1521, daughter of the Serbian despot Jovan Brankovic) on the votive painting of the bishopric church in Curtea de Argeş.

The crown has radiate arms, ending with fleur-de-lis. The crown has many inserted gems. At each side is a pendant, with a disk with three rows of beads ended with a "crux gammata", a cross with arms shaped like the Greek letter gamma. On the disks are represented the Romanian and respectively the Great Britain coat of arms (the last, as a homage to the British origin of Queen Marie). Atop is a crux gammata. From the artistic point of view, the crown belongs to the 1900 style (Art Nouveau).

The crown has almost 2 kg, 17.5 centimeters in diameter at the bottom and 18 centimeters in height. Nowadays it is displayed at the National History Museum in Bucharest, in the Treasury Room.

About Queen Marie (Maria, Mary)

The future Queen Marie of Romania was born on the 3rd of October 1875, being the daughter of Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh (the second son of Queen Victoria - after 1893, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha), and of the Russian Grand Duchess Maria (daughter of Tsar Alexander II of Russia).

Lady Marie, princess of Edinburgh, married Ferdinand, crown prince of Romania, in December 1892. The couple had six children: Carol (1893 - 1953, future kink Carol II), Elisabeta (1894 - 1961), Marioara (1899 - 1961), Nicolae (1903 - 1978), Ileana (1908 - 1991) and Mircea (1913 - 1916).

Strong personality, very beautiful woman, extremely respected by the Romanian army, Marie really loved Romania. In the second Balkan War she worked for the Red Cross, as head nurse of the Zimnicea Military Camp, where soldiers sick of cholera (returned from Bulgaria) were treated. She was helped in her duty by some sisters from the well-known congregation Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul and by many brave Romanian women. It seems that Marie had an important role in the decision of Romania's joining the Allies in 1916 in the World War I.

Queen Marie died on July 18th 1938. Her heart was sent to Balcic (her favorite town, the former summer retreat of Romanian royalty and aristocracy, in the southern part of the Romanian Dobrogea (Dobruja), nowadays Balchik in Bulgaria), her body being entombed in the royal burial abbey of Curtea de Argeş. "Before going from Cotroceni Palace on her very last way, the Queen was saluted by the soldiers with the bayonets thrusted into the ground and with the weapons butt end above, unique gesture that the [Romanian] Army never offered to any other human being." - from Mr. Alex Mihai Stoenescu's book "Istoria loviturilor de stat în România = History of the coups d'état in Romania" (vol. II, Bucharest, 2001, in Romanian).

Queen Marie also appears, wearing the same crown, on a gold 100 lei coin from 2010.

The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 lei 1922

Next coin

40 mm diameter, 16.13 g, gold 90%, silver 7.5%, copper 2.5%, grained edge legend "FERDINAND I REGELE ROMANILOR - 50 LEI" meaning "FERDINAND I KING OF THE ROMANIANS - 50 LEI" and half profile crowned effigy of the king to the left; next to the right shoulder P. M. DAMMANN, name of the engraver, outer pearl circle

legend "MARIA REGINA ROMANILOR - 1922 -" meaning "MARY QUEEN OF THE ROMANIANS - 1922 -" and half profile crowned effigy of the queen to the right, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 105.000 coins

The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

About the 1922 coin set

Struck in Great Britain at London Royal Mint, in 1928 or 1929 (after Octavian Iliescu and Paul Radovici, Monetele României, 2004), although antedated in 1922. The decree for the issuing of these coins was published in the Official Gazette on June 4th 1927. King Ferdinand died on July 20th the same year.

The coin pictured here belongs to a four coin set of 20, 25, 50 and 100 lei. 20 and 100 lei share common design, the same for 25 and 50. The entire set was engraved by the renowned French artist Paul Marcel Dammann (1885 - 1939). The catalog values of king Ferdinand gold coins indicate that a lot of them were not released. Mr. **J. M.** suggests that a large part of the mintage was melted, maybe to strike other coins.

The coins were issued to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the coronation of Ferdinand I and Mary as sovereigns of the now entire Great Romania. Through the three Unions of 1918 Romania became again wholly complete. The Romanians had been brought together by Michael the Brave for the first time in 1600, that being the reason for which Romanians called World War I the Nation **Re**completion War. The October 1922 coronation took place at Alba Iulia, in the heart of Transylvania, just like it did the first time in 1600 to add deepest signification.

Below are presented the pictures of two uniface essays made from bronze, from the **G.F.** collection, Germany. Both essays have thick rim.

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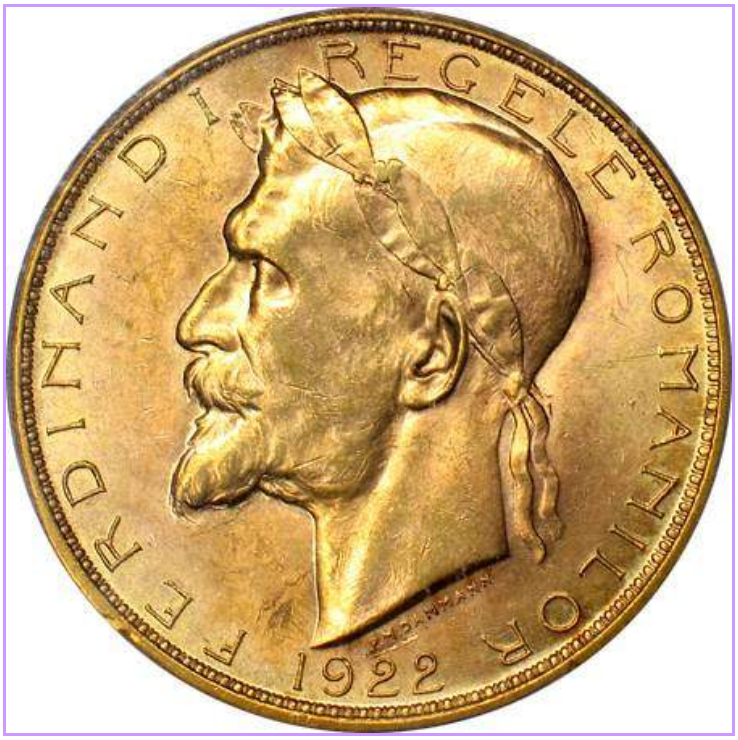
Romanian coins

Previous coin

100 lei 1922

Next coin



**35 mm diameter, 32.26 g, gold 90%,
copper 10%, flat edge, outer pearl circle
denomination 100 LEI, ROMANIA and middle coat of arms of the country. On the edge the inscription
PATRIA ★ SI ★ DREPTUL ★ MEU ★★★★★★
meaning HOMELAND AND MY RIGHT**

effigy of the king crowned with a laurel wreath, facing left (or right in heraldic perspective), year 1922 and inscription "FERDINAND I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "FERDINAND I KING OF ROMANIANS", outer pearl circle. Under the effigy's neck lies inscription P. M. DAMMANN, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 30.000 coins

About the 1922 coin set

Struck in Great Britain at London Royal Mint, in 1928 or 1929 (after Octavian Iliescu and Paul Radovici, Monetele României, 2004), although antedated in 1922. The decree for the issuing of these coins was published in the Official Gazette on June 4th 1927. King Ferdinand died on July 20th the same year.

The coin pictured here belongs to a four coin set of 20, 25, 50 and 100 lei. 20 and 100 lei share common design, the same for 25 and 50. The entire set was engraved by the renowned French artist Paul Marcel Dammann (1885 - 1939). The catalog values of king Ferdinand gold coins indicate that a lot of them were not released. Mr. **J. M.** suggests that a large part of the mintage was melted, maybe to strike other coins.

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The war victoriously brought to its end, king Ferdinand was depicted laureate.

The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1924

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 3.5 g, copper 75%, nickel 25%, grained edge, outer pearl circle inscription "BUN PENTRU" = GOOD FOR, denomination "1 LEU", wheat ears wreath

ROMANIA, year 1924 and Romanian coat of arms; both at left and right of the coat of arms three five-ray stars; outer pearl circle

Mintage: 100.000.000 coins (Brussels)
100.007.255 coins (Poissy)

The coins struck in 1924 were minted in two mints. The coins struck in Brussels have no distinctive signs. The lightning marked coins were struck at the Coinage French Society (Poissy branch). The mintages are taken from Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog from 2009. In MBR the total mintage figure for this issue is 200.006.255 pieces, 1.000 less.

Brussels

Poissy

The Brussels coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.
An essay for 1 leu 1924 piece struck at Poissy can be seen here.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 lei 1924

Next coin

25 mm diameter, 7 g, copper 75%, nickel 25%, grained edge, outer pearl circle
inscription "BUN PENTRU" = GOOD FOR, denomination "2 LEI", wheat ears wreath

ROMANIA, year 1924 and Romanian coat of arms; both at left and right of the coat of arms three five-ray stars; outer pearl circle

Mintage: 50.000.000 coins (Brussels)
50.008.000 coins (Poissy)

The coins struck in 1924 were minted in two mints. The coins struck in Brussels have no distinctive signs. The lightning marked coins were struck at the Coinage French Society (Poissy branch). The mintages are taken from Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog from 2009. In MBR the total mintage figure for this issue is 100.000.000 pieces, 8.000 less. In comparison with the mintage figures given by Romanian numismatic literature, the record books of the Poissy mint [1] gave 298 pieces more for the 2 lei coin - 50,008,298 pieces.

Brussels

Poissy

About the Mint from Poissy

The city of Poissy is placed on the left bank of Seine River, at about 20 kilometers from downtown Paris, in the department of Yvelines. At the times of Poissy mint functioning, the city was part of Seine-et-Oise department.

The mint of the French Company of Coinage from Poissy (l'Atelier Monétaire de la Société Française de Monnayage de Poissy) was established in 1922. The headquarters of the company was in Paris. The society was especially established for striking French 5 and 10 centimes of type Lindauer (the ones with a hole in the center, similar with the Romanian 5 and 10 bani from 1905-1906) - after WW1 in France there was an acute shortage of small change. The coin production started in the second half of March 1922. The first coins were struck for Morocco.

The Poissy mint had 12 coin presses, each being capable of striking around 25-30 pieces per minute. Here were struck approximately 632 million coins for Romania, Monaco, Indochina, Morocco, Greece, Senegal, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Uruguay - but also several millions of various tokens. For Romania the mint of Poissy struck 100,007,255 pieces of 1 leu 1924 and 50,008,298 pieces of 2 lei 1924. In comparison with the mintage figures given by Romanian numismatic literature, the record books of the Poissy mint gave 298 pieces more for the 2 lei coin.

The blanks used for strIking coins by the Poissy mint were produced at Le Havre and at Dives-sur-mer (not far from Le Havre).

The Poissy mint was closed on the 31st of December 1927, due to the fierce international competition on the coin producing market.

Reference

[1] le Floch, J., Éléments de numismatique. L'atelier monétaire de Poissy (Seine-et-Oise) de 1922 à 1927. (Elements of Numismatics. The Mint of Poissy (Seine-et-Oise) from 1922 at 1927.) Cercle d'Études Historiques et Archéologiques de Poissy (CEHA), Poissy, 2006.

In the images below a striking error is presented. The error appeared as result of the blank displacement inside the die. The pictures were made available to **Romanian coins** by Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

Another piece of 2 lei issued in 1924 featuring a striking flaw (most probably it has passed several times through the die) is presented below.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1930

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 3.5 g, copper 79%, zinc 20%, nickel 1%, grained edge denomination "5 lei", Romanian coat of arms, six five-ray stars and ensigns of the manufacturer mint, outer pearl circle

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA", year 1930 and MIHAI I head to the left, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 60.000.000 coins

The pictures of the 5 lei 1930 coin struck at King's Norton above appears on the site thanks to the kind permission of Mr **Cristian Ciuplea**.

Mints that struck 5 lei 1930 coins

The 5 lei 1930 coins with king Mihai I were struck in three mints from abroad.

The coins struck in Paris (below, at left) have a horn of plenty with coins pouring out of it (mint sign) on the left of the coat of arms and a torch on the right as distinctive signs. The torch marks the chief engraver of the Parisian Mint, Henry Auguste Jules Patey.

The ones struck in Birmingham at King's Norton Metal Company are marked with **K N** in the lower obverse, and the ones struck at Birmingham at Heaton with an **H** at the same spot (the details below and the whole coins above and below).

Horn of plenty and torch

K N

H

Most probably 30.000.000 coins were struck at Paris and the rest of 30 millions at Birmingham - 15.000.000 at Heaton and 15.000.000 at King's Norton.

About the number of teeth on the edge

It is interesting to observe that the number of teeth on the edge differs from one mint to another. There are 114 teeth at the coins struck at Heaton Birmingham, 115 at the coins struck at Paris and 120 to the coins struck at King's Norton in Birmingham.

In *Monede şi Bancnote Româneşti* (Romanian Coins and Banknotes, 1977) it is mentioned that the coins with an H were struck at "Heaton, London". But the coins struck at Heaton were (usually) marked by an H, and Heaton Mint functioned always at Birmingham, never at London.

The 1930 coins of Mihai I circulated relatively very little due to his being overthrowned by his father Carol II, the same very year.

A **striking error**: as result of overimposing another coin between the blank and the die, a negative stamping appeared on the reverse of this curiosity. The pictures were made available to **Romanian coins** by Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

Horn of plenty (cornucopia) and torch on another coin

The special ensigns are not that clear on these coins. To better comprehend the markings of the coins struck in France, take a look at the picture below taken from a one lepton Cretan coin from 1901, likewise marked. The horn of plenty and the torch are plainly featured and so clearly visible.

We also raise another problem at the same time. For what we know from our material resurces, the horn of plenty stands for a French mint in Paris, and the torch marks engraver Henry Auguste Jules Patey. This cannot be accurate, completely accurate at least, since we see the same two signs on the Cretan (coin above), being also able to doubtlessly read the name of the engravor - Borrel. The Latin spelling Borrel was confirmed by Mr. **Stefan De Lombaert**.

Mr. **Stefan De Lombaert** have solved our problem: the torch - personal sign of Henry Auguste Jules Patey (1855 - 1930), chief engraver of the Paris Mint between 1896 and 1930 - appears on all the coins struck at Paris in that period. So, the coin is struck under Patey, but it is possible that the engraver be another person, not mentioned on the coin! Between 1930 and 1958 the chief engraver was Lucien Bazor (1889 - 1974), marked by a wing, sign that appears also on the 10 lei 1930, 20 lei 1930 and 100 lei 1932 coins struck at Paris.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1930

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 7.5 g, copper 79%, zinc 20%, nickel 1%, grained edge
denomination "20 lei", four women in folkloric attire and BASSARAB at lower right, along the rim (ensign of engraver Costache Bassarab), outer pearl circle

the inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANIEI" meaning "KING OF ROMANIA", year 1930 and MIHAI I head facing left, outer pearl circle

Mintage: 50.000.000 coins

These coins were struck at three different mints. The ones struck in Birmingham at King's Norton Metal Company are marked with **K N** near the edge. At Heaton Birmingham were struck coins with the mint sign H under the women (image above) and at Royal Mint London coins without any distinctive sign. The coin pictured at right is struck at London, because it has no distinctive sign.

The pictures of the coin minted at Heaton on this page and the information about the fact that the coins without mint sign were struck at London are present on the site through the contribution of Mr. **Cristian Ciuplea**.

The pictures of the coin struck at London and of the coin struck at King's Norton are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

From the total number of 50.000.000 coins, at London were struck 40.000.000 pieces and 10 millions at Birmingham, 5.000.000 at Heaton and the same number at King's Norton.

In **Monede şi Bancnote Româneşti** (Romanian Coins and Banknotes, 1977) it is mentioned that the coins with H and without mint sign were struck both at "Heaton, London". But the coins struck at Heaton were (usually) marked by an H, and Heaton Mint functioned always at Birmingham, never at London. In conclusion, the use of the Heaton Mint name in this case is an error. The coins without mint sign were struck at Royal Mint London.

The 1930 coins of Mihai I circulated very little due to his being overthrowned by his father Carol II, the same very year.

Somehow rare and dear, this coin is almost impossible to be found in good condition. Among the numismatists it is known as the **Hora** or the **Hora Coin**. I found, to my surprise, when consulting an instance of the Webster dictionary, that **hora** is considered to be also an English word. Webster's description puts it: a lively Romanian and Israeli folk dance performed in a circle. The fact that no one seems to be capable of reading this coin should be only taken into account as embarassing for Romanian numismatics and numismatists both. The four characters have not been pictured dancing, as the word went to a wide spread and is still going among Romanian coin collectors (id est **Hora**), instead the coin displays the **Great Romania Allegory**.

About the statue of Great Romania from Iaşi

The **Great Romania Allegory**: **Mother Romania** greets back her daughters, **Basarabia**, **Bucovina** and **Transilvania**, that altogether returned to the MotherLand in 1918. This image was notorious in a not so far from now period of time. The rejoining encounter was immortalized (somehow unproperly said, as I will later point) in stone by sculptress Olga Sturza, the statue having been donated to the city hall of Iaşi (former capital city of the principality of Moldavia) on first of August 1924. The work of art was placed on the very location where today resides the statue of Mihai Eminescu, at the feet of Copou Hill.

The image below comes from a postal card printed in 1929. One may reckon that despite certain tiny differences it is the same allegory.

Great Romania Statue - 1924

As you can see, a small child at the base of the statuary group is striving to reach to Mother Romania aside the other three daughters (clearer on the second picture). The child stands for all the Romanians left outside the boundaries set in 1919. Shortly after the Russians entered Iaşi in 1944, the statue was hammered until unrecognizable, its shapeless remainders and reminders being removed a few years later.

After the regime shift in 1989, under the administration of mayor Constantin Simirad, the statue was crafted again to initial parameters and emplaced this time right in front of the Medicine and Pharmacy University on the **Independence Boulevard**.

Statue of Great Romania (România Mare)

Speaking about lost significations and casting a closer look at the picture, one may rightfully wonder how much will it be going to take until the passing pedestrians will stare at the statue in doubt trying to figure out why does the tall woman wear a military helmet and what war could it be all about.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

10 lei 1930

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 5 g, copper 79%, zinc 20%, nickel 1%, grained edge denomination "10 lei", year 1930 and wing spread, crowned eagle holding cross in its beak, sword and scepter in its talons; on eagle's breast a shield displaying the crowned monogram of Carol II instead of Romania's coat of arms, outer pearl circle

the inscription "CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS" and CAROL II head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies A. LAVRILLIER, the engraver's name

Mintage: 60.000.000 coins

http://romaniancoins.org

Mints that struck 10 lei 1930 coins for king Carol II

The 10 lei coins struck in 1930 were minted in several mints. The coins struck in Paris (above) have a horn of plenty with coins pouring out of it (mint sign) on the left and a wing on the right as distinctive signs. The wing marks the chief engraver of the Parisian Mint, Lucien Bazor. There are pieces minted at Paris with sides facing either commonly (inverted) or the medal fashion (upright). At Heaton Birmingham were struck coins with the mint sign H near the year and at Royal Mint London coins without any distinctive sign (like the one on the next page). The ones struck in Birmingham at King's Norton Metal Company are marked with K N. The information about the fact that the coins without mint sign were struck at London is present on the site through the contribution of Mr. **Cristian Ciuplea**.

From the total number of 60.000.000 coins, 30.000.000 were struck at London pieces, 15 millions at Paris and the other 15 millions at Birmingham, 7.500.000 at Heaton and the same number at King's Norton.

In **Monede şi Bancnote Româneşti** (Romanian Coins and Banknotes, 1977) it is mentioned that the coins with H and without mint sign were struck both at "Heaton, London". But the coins struck at Heaton were (usually) marked by an H, and Heaton Mint functioned always at Birmingham, never at London. In conclusion, the use of the Heaton Mint name in this case is an error. The coins without mint sign were struck at Royal Mint London.

It is interesting to observe that the number of teeth on the edge differs from one mint to another. There are 113 teeth at the coins struck at London, 110 at those struck at Paris and 115 at the coins struck at King's Norton in Birmingham (we did not check the coins with H, struck at Heaton).

The Paris, Heaton and King's Norton coins pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1930

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 7.5 g, copper 79%, zinc 20%, nickel 1%, grained edge denomination "20 lei", year 1930 and wing spread, crowned eagle holding cross in its beak, sword and scepter in its talons; on eagle's breast a shield displaying the crowned monogram of Carol II instead of Romania's coat of arms, outer pearl circle

the inscription "CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS" and CAROL II head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies A. LAVRILLIER, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 33.000.000 coins

Mints that struck 20 lei 1930 coins for king Carol II

The 20 lei coins struck by king Carol II in 1930 were minted in several mints.

The coins struck in Paris have a horn of plenty with coins pouring out of it (mint sign) on the left and a wing on the right as distinctive signs (the picture at right). The wing marks the chief engraver of the Parisian Mint, Lucien Bazor.

At Royal Mint in London coins without any distinctive sign were struck (images above).

The coins struck in Birmingham at King's Norton Metal Company are marked with K N. At Heaton Birmingham were struck coins with the mint sign H near the year (pictures below).

The pictures at right and below and the information about the fact that the coins without mint sign were struck at London are present on the site through the kind contribution of Mr. **Cristian Ciuplea**.

In *Monede şi Bancnote Româneşti* (Romanian Coins and Banknotes, 1977) it is mentioned that the coins with H and without mint sign were struck at "Heaton, London". But the coins struck at Heaton were (usually) marked by an H, and Heaton Mint functioned always at Birmingham, never at London. In conclusion, the use of the Heaton Mint name in this case is an error. The coins without mint sign were struck at Royal Mint London.

It is interesting to observe that the number of teeth on the edge differs from one mint to another. There are 137 teeth at the coins struck at London and 131 at the coins struck at Paris (we checked only these two variants).

Fake 20 lei 1930 coins

Romanian numismatics knows lots of fakes. There are the counterfait (or bogus) pieces, as would be the "mărţişor" coins of 1 ban 1883 and 1 ban 1888, replicas pretending genuineness and quite common on the market.

The frauds against the state are more numerous. We are talking about fake money which imitated better or worse the official issues and which circulated effectively. Some were obtained through striking, employing methods resembling the ones used in the mint processess and fakes that were cast (molded). The cast fakes have porous surface and corrupt details, due to the technological problems.

Usually these counterfaits are made of a different alloy and their diameter is also different.

The images above picture an easily recognizable fake by the aspect of the effigy and the shivering shape of the letters. Moreover, the mass is not proper. The piece displayed is just 7.1 grams instead of the 7.5 grams of the original.

Below are the pictures of other fakes, the first having 6.6 grams and the second 10.37 grams.

The pictures of the fake coins above were provided for **Romanian coins** by Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

Below are the images of a fake 20 lei made from lead. The pictures are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Adrian Popovici**.

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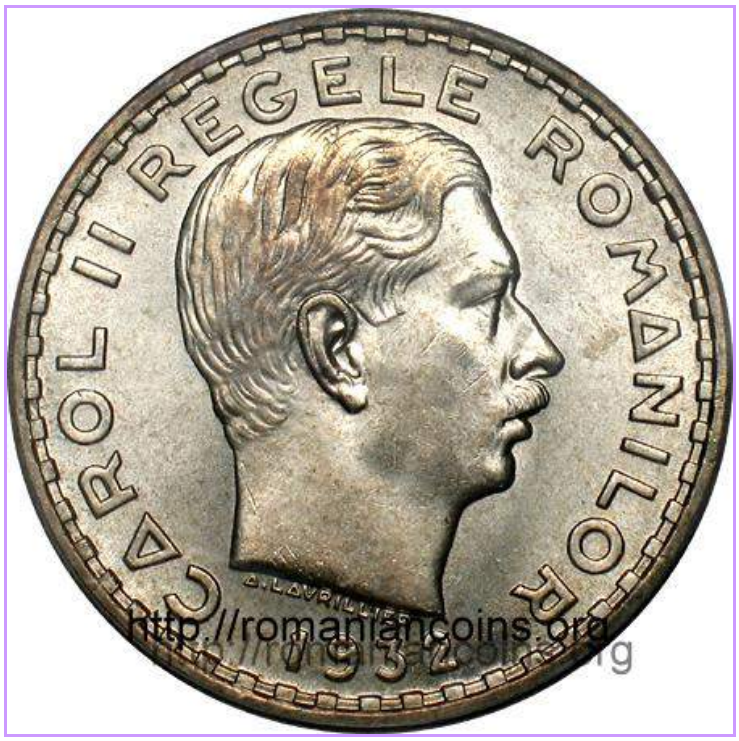
Romanian coins

Previous coin

100 lei 1932

Next coin

31 mm diameter, 14 g, silver 50%, copper 40%, zinc 5%, nickel 5%, grained edge
denomination "100 lei" and Romanian coat of arms inside laurel wreath



inscription "CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", year 1932 and CAROL II head facing right. Under the neck lies A. LAVRILLIER, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 16.400.000 coins (London, without marks)
2.000.000 coins (Paris, cornucopia and wing)

The 100 lei 1932 coins were minted abroad, in two mints.
The common variant is struck at London (16.400.000 coins, the first image on this page) - or maybe 16.800.000 - value from Schäffer-Stambuliu catalog from 2009.
The other variant - 2.000.000 coins - is struck at Paris, having a horn of plenty (mint sign) on the left and a wing on the right as distinctive signs. The wing marks the chief engraver of the Parisian Mint, Lucien Bazor. The images of the Parisian coin appears on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Andru C**. Other pictures of a Parisian 100 lei 1932 coin appeared for a long time on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Adrian Popovici**. The pictures of the coin struck at London are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

In **Monede şi Bancnote Româneşti** (Romanian Coins and Banknotes, 1977) it is mentioned that the coins without mint sign were struck at "Heaton, London". But the coins struck at Heaton were (usually) marked by an H, and Heaton Mint functioned always at Birmingham, never at London. In conclusion, the use of the Heaton Mint name in this case is an error. The coins without mint sign were struck at Royal Mint London.
The information about the fact that the coins without mint sign were struck at London is present on the site through the contribution of Mr. **Cristian Ciuplea**. He also informed us that essays from Paris exist with the mint and engraver signs on the other coin face than the regular (business) strike.

The images above picture a counterfeit weighing only 11.51 grams instead of 14, the weight of an original coin. The pictures of the fake coin above were provided for Romanian coins by Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

Below are the pictures of a bronze fake, present on our site through the kind permission of Mr. **Adrian Popovici**.

Above you can see a counterfeit coin (made of lead), present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Áron Kovács**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

250 lei 1935

Next coin

**29 mm diameter, 13.5 g, silver 75%,
copper 25%, grained edge
denomination "250 LEI" and Romanian coat of arms**

the inscription "CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", CAROL II head facing left and year 1935. Under the neck lies I. Jalea, the engraver's name.

Mintage 4.500.000 coins.

The edge of the coin is adorned with two wavy lines, separated by a rhombus with curvilinear sides. The small axis of the two rhombi is vertical.
This coin is quite hard to find and not as cheap as expected given the mintage of 4.500.000 pieces.
The silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.
The uncirculated silver coin pictures below are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

Below you can see a counterfeit coin made of bronze, present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Adrian Popovici**. A good share of the fakes introduced on the market in the period between the two World Wars and during the Second World War were manufactured inside the very Romanian State Mint, with the very original dies. Several common metals and alloys were used. Most often encountered are the bronze and lead fakes.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 lei 1937, 1938

Next coin

24 mm diameter, 5.83 g, Ni 97.5%, grained edge
denomination "50 lei", year 1937 and Romanian coat of arms, at left laurel twig, at right oak twig; outer pearl circle

the inscription "CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS" and CAROL II head with parade headdress, facing left; outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies I. Jalea, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 12.000.000 coins in 1937
8.000.000 coins in 1938

The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The nickel coins of 100 lei minted in 1936 and 1938 (shown on the next page) and those of 50 lei of 1937 and 1938 were drawn out of circulation once WW2 started. The coins struck during the war were made of zinc (2, 5 and 20 lei) or nickel plated iron (100 lei), solutions cheaper than nickel itself and also less necessary to the armament industry. Accordingly to Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog from 2009, the alloy of these coins contain 1.5% cobalt.

The pieces pulled out were demonetized, that is stamped inside a pattern that impressed both on the obverse and reverse paralel lines and concentric circles (varying from case to case). This step forewent destruction and was meant to hinder fraudulent reintroduction of the coins back again on the market by the operators that were assigned to retrieve the precious metal. Below there is such a marked coin (for melting) that somehow escaped destruction. The pictures below were made available to **Romanian coins** by Mr Cătălin Gavrilă.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

100 lei 1936, 1938

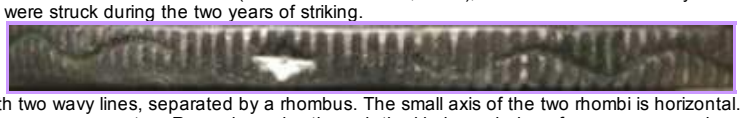
Next coin

27 mm diameter, 8.2 g, nickel 97.5%, grained edge
denomination "100 lei", year 1936 and Romanian coat of arms, at left laurel twig, at right oak twig; outer pearl circle

the inscription "CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS" and CAROL II head facing left; outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies I. Jalea, the engraver's name.

Mintage 1936: 20.230.446 coins
Mintage 1938: 3.250.000 coins

According to the information from the book Monetele României (Iliescu and Radovici, 2004), some 100 lei coins with year 1936 were struck in 1937 too. From the same book: only 16.750.000 coins with year 1936 were struck during the two years of striking.



The edge of the coin is adorned with two wavy lines, separated by a rhombus. The small axis of the two rhombi is horizontal.
The pictures of 100 lei 1936 coin above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

About the demonetization of the nickel coins issued in 1936-1938

The nickel coins of 100 lei minted in 1936 and 1938 (20.230.446 respectively 3.250.000 pieces) and those of 50 lei of 1937 and 1938 (shown on the previous page, 12.000.000 respectively 8.000.000 pieces) were drawn out of circulation once WW2 started. The coins struck during the war were made of zinc (2, 5 and 20 lei) or nickel plated iron (100 lei), solutions cheaper than nickel itself and also less necessary to the armament industry.

The pieces pulled out were demonetized, that is stamped inside a pattern that impressed both on the obverse and reverse paralel lines and concentric circles (varying from case to case). This step forewent destruction and was meant to hinder fraudulent reintroduction of the coins back again on the market by the operators that were assigned to retrieve the precious metal. Below there is such a marked coin (for melting) that somehow escaped destruction.

The demonetized coins were sent for melting to the German company Vereinigte Deutsche Metallwerke AG (VDM) at Altena, a city from North Rhine - Westphalia. The plant of Altena was specialized in nickel metallurgy, and here were made the nickel-plated iron planchets on which the 100 lei 1943 and 1944 were struck. The recovered nickel was partially used for plating the mentioned iron planchets, the rest having been used by the German industry.

1936

CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR
100

100 LEI
1938

CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR

100 LEI
1938

CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR

All the demonetized coins pictures above were provided to **Romanian coins** by Mr Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

About nickel coins and about nickel

The 50 and 100 lei coins issued in 1936, 1937 and 1938 are the first (and, since today, the only) Romanian coins made from nickel. The Romanian coinage used the nickel for the first time at the cupronickel coins of 1900 (5, 10 and 20 bani 1900). The first modern nickel coin is a Swiss 20 centimes from 1881. Even some antique nickel coins exist, struck in the 2nd century B.C. in Bactria, a territory located in the nowadays Afghanistan, conquered by Alexander the Great and afterwards turned into a Hellenistic kingdom. It is not known for sure where did the nickel used by the Bactrians for coinage come from.

Nickel is a silvery-white metal, ferromagnetic, and very resistant to corrosion and oxidation. The US 5 cent piece, named "nickel", is made from a copper and nickel alloy that is not ferromagnetic. So, despite its name, no pure nickel! The copper-nickel alloys with less nickel are not ferromagnetic because their Curie points (the temperature at which the magnetic properties change, by heating, from ferromagnetic to paramagnetic) are below the common temperatures of the surrounding medium. Or something alike... Nowadays the best known nickel coins are the ones struck by Canada, e.g. 10 and 25 cents issued after 1978.

Below you can see a counterfeit coin (made of lead?), present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Áron Kovács**. A good share of the fakes introduced on the market in the period between the two World Wars and during the Second World War were manufactured inside the very Romanian State Mint, with the very original dies. Several common metals and alloys were used. Most often encountered are the bronze and lead fakes.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 2.75 g, copper 80%, zinc 19%, nickel 1%, flat edge
denomination "1 LEU" and corncob, under which lies I.Jalea, the engraver's name

inscription "ROMANIA", crown, year 1938, wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right)

Mintage 1938: 36.000.000 coins
Mintage 1939: 21.620.000 coins
Mintage 1940: 22.230.000 coins
Mintage 1941: 20.250.000 coins

1939 **1940**

According to the information from the book Monetele României (Iliescu and Radovici, 2004 - from which the mintages were taken), the 1 leu 1938 and 1 leu 1939 coins were actually issued in 1940. All "corncob" coins were struck in Bucharest. According to MBR, a total mintage of 100.100.000 pieces of 1 leu were struck (value that corresponds with the sum of the four years' mintage figures taken from Monetele României), from which 27.900.000 coins were struck in 1938.

The pictures of 1 leu coins above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

250 lei 1939, 1940

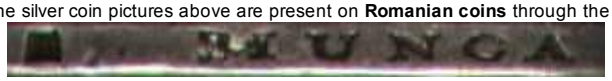
Next coin

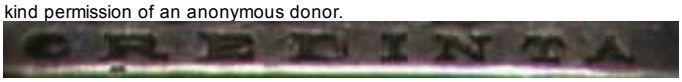
**30 mm diameter, 12 g, silver 83.5%,
copper 16.5%, flat edge
denomination "250 LEI", Romanian coat of arms and year 1939, wreath made from grapevine with leaves and clusters and wheat ears
Incuse on the edge: + MUNCA + CREDINTA + REGE + NATIUNE meaning WORK FAITH KING NATION**

**inscription "CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", CAROL II head facing right.
Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.**

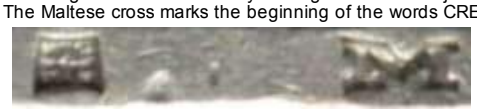
**Mintage in 1939: 10.000.000 coins
Mintage in 1940: 8.000.000 coins**

The silver coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.





Two different signs were used to separate the words in the incuse inscription on the edge (images above). Each sign appears two times. The first sign is a cross in a square, the second is a Maltese cross looking like the one used by the organization "Straja Þării" - The Country Ward, initiated and patronized by the king Carol II. The two signs are presented in the pictures below. The Maltese cross marks the beginning of the words CREDINTA and NATIUNE.



Coins with the face value of 250 lei were struck also under the king Mihai I (Michael I), in 1941. These coins bear on the edge the inscriptions NIHIL SINE DEO or TOTUL PENTRU TARA. Although the faces bearing the value of 250 lei seem to be identical, they are different. An obvious difference is shown in the detail pictures below (the wheat leaf near digit 2 in 250 is straight on the 1939 coins, at left, or bent on the 1941 coins, at right). Below is also presented a 1940 coin, through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

gold set 1939

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 6.5 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge face value 20 LEI, ROMANIA, year 19 3[9] written in two parts (the last 9 is missing), an eagle holding a crown in its beak, with spread wings, seated atop the Romanian coat of arms	**legend CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR meaning "KING OF ROMANIANS" and king CAROL II facing right**
21 mm diameter, 6.5 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge face value 20 LEI, ROMANIA, year 19 39 written in two parts, Romanian coat of arms with a crown atop, at left and right two branches around which a ribbon is wrapped. The ribbon bears the Latin inscription NIHIL SINE DEO meaning NOTHING WITHOUT GOD.	**legend CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR meaning "KING OF ROMANIANS" and king CAROL II facing right**
35 mm diameter, 32.5 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge face value 100 LEI, ROMANIA, year 19 39 written in two parts, inside an inner linear circle an archangel with spread wings, holding with both hands a sword and supporting a shield with the Romanian coat of arms	**legend CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR meaning "KING OF ROMANIANS" and king CAROL II facing right. Under the neck lies the name of the engraver, E.W.BECKER.**
35 mm diameter, 32.5 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge face value 100 LEI between two triangular signs, ROMANIA, year 19 39 written in two parts, a vegetal wreath beneath an equal lenght armed cross, ended with fleurs-de-lis. Above the cross a shield with the Romanian coat of arms.	**legend CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR meaning "KING OF ROMANIANS" and king CAROL II facing right. Under the neck lies the name of the engraver, E.W.BECKER.**
41 mm diameter, 42 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge laurel and oak wreaths, a horizontal strip with ROMANIA, above the strip the She-wolf and the twins Romulus and Remus, below a shield with the Romanian coat of arms. Atop year 1939. Without face value.	**along the edge the inscription CAROLVS II, in the middle the king on horseback, to the left. In exergue, along the edge, at the bottom left, the name of the engraver, E.W.BECKER.**
41 mm diameter, 42 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge along the edge ROMANIA, Romanian coat of arms, a peasant mowing, tall grass in the background. At bottom year 1939.	**along the edge inscription CAROLVS II, in the middle the king on horseback, to the left. In exergue, along the edge, at the bottom left, the name of the engraver, E.W.BECKER.**

The gold coins pictures above are present on Romanian Coins through the kind permission of Mr. **J. Ardelean**.

The six gold coins set (after some sources, there are two sets of three coins each) was struck in order to celebrate 100 years from the birth of king Carol I. It is easy to see that on the coins here there is not a single reference to Carol I to be found. In April and May 1939 the festivities for the birth centennial of king Carol I took place, on May 9th being inaugurated the statue of the first king of Romania (at Bucharest).

About the great gold pieces

The great gold pieces, having 41 millimeters in diameter and 42 grams, also known as the She-wolf (Lupoaica) respectively as the Mower (Cosaşul) - were defined by the coin set emission Law nr. 489 from June 1939 as decorative coins. The great gold pieces are close to medals. Based only on the leu/gram ratio, they must have a face value of 129 lei and several bani.

The mower that appears on the second great gold piece is badly represented. He mows very unusually, with the scythe held with the left hand. This can be the first design error of the Romanian coins.

About the mintage and about the mass of the coins

According to Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog in 2009, the mintage of 20 and 100 lei was 91 pieces each, and 95 each for the great gold coins.

In 2013 Romfilatelia put on sale a series of four stamps, under the name of "Numismatic Collection of the National Bank of Romania - Romanian Golden Coins" [Colecţia numismatică a Băncii Naţionale a României - monede româneşti de aur]. The highest value features one of the golden 20 lei from 1939. On the page describing the series on the Romfilatelia website, the information exists about the mintage of the 1939 golden coins: each of the six coins would have been minted in 300 pieces, according to this account. The site hints somehow that this information comes directly from the NBR.

It is very interesting to observe that the 20 lei 1939 pieces (and the 20 lei coins from 1940, presented on the following page) have 6.5 grams. The 20 lei coins struck under Carol I (in 1868,

1870, 1883, 1884, 1890, 1906), and the coin struck in 1927 and bearing the effigy of king Ferdinand (and year 1922) have 6.452 grame. The coin-medal „Transylvania of Ours" is a bit heavier than the regular 20 lei coins, having 6.55 grams instead of 6.452 grams.

The weight of the "galbeni mari" is tied to the weight of the ducat - 1 ducat weighing approximately 3.49 grams, out of which 3.44 grams of pure gold, the fineness of god being 98.6%. The 42 grams represent the weight of 12 ducats. At a fineness of 90%, "galbenul mare" contains around as much pure gold as 11 ducats.

About the statue of she-wolf with the twins Romulus and Remus

The Capitoline She-wolf (Lupa Capitolina) is a bronze Etruscan statue from the 6th century B.C., today kept at the Conservatory Palazzo in Rome. The nursing infants Romulus and Remus (mithical founders of Rome, sons of Mars, the god of war, and of the vestal Rhea Silvia) were sculpted and placed under the statue in 1509 by Antonio del Pollaio. The She-wolf and the infants Romulus and Remus symbolize the legendary origin of Rome and also the sacred and eternal character of the city and of its power. The image of the she-wolf with the twins appears on many antic Roman coins.

The Italian State gave five copies of this statuary group to the Romanian State, as present. These were emplaced in Bucharest (1906), Cluj (1921, Transylvania), Chişinău (1921, Moldavia, Basarabia), Tîrgu Mureş (1924, Transylvania) and Timişoara (1926, Banat) as symbols of the Latinism and of the unity of the Romanians from all the country's provinces. At Chişinău the statue - that can be seen in the nearby picture, taken in 1937 - was placed in front of the building where Sfatul Ţării (Council of the Land) voted in 1918 the Union with the Motherland (from 1933, the building was assigned to the Agricultural Sciences Faculty). Nowadays the building has suffered important architectural modification, housing the Academy of Music, Theater and Plastic Arts.

The Russian invasion (Soviet) has destroyed the beautiful statue (1940). At December 1st 1990, a new copy was unveiled Chişinău, as donation of the Cultural Ligue for the Unity of Romanians from Everywhere. The emplacement was made in front of the National Museum of Archeology and History of Moldavia. Removed in 2005 under the pretext of restoration needs (most probably on political grounds), the she-wolf was restored in 2009 on the emplacement, as a new donation and new copy made by the Cultural League for the Unity of Romanians from Everywhere.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

gold set 1940

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 6.5 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge inside a thorn wreath with three flowers, a crown and sun rays, below the crown two entangled C's with Roman numeral II centrally (Carol II monogram), ribbon bent twice tying the thorn wreath, on which lies NIHIL SINE DEO. Along and near the edge the inscriptions ROMANIA, 8 IUNIE 1930, 8 IUNIE 1940, face value 20 LEI.	the legend CAROL II and, between an oak branch (at left) and a laurel branch (at right), REGELE ROMANILOR meaning "KING OF ROMANIANS", and the effigy of Carol II to the left. Under the neck lies the name of the engraver, E.W. BECKER.
21 mm diameter, 6.5 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge wreath of laurel (left) and oak (right) branches tied atop by a Roman numeral X (ten), over the wreaths six shields bearing the coat of arms of Moldavia, the territories of the Black Sea (Dobruja - Dobrogea -, mainly), Transylvania (at the right side), Wallachia, Hohenzollern family emblem and Oltenia along Banat - clockwise from 12 o'clock; at the bottom face value 20 LEI, below the face value, along the edge, inscription A.MURNU - H.IONESCU, the names of the coin engravers. At center the crown of Romania over a circle inside which monogram CC of Carol II is inscribed, at left 8 IUNIE 1930, at right 8 IUNIE 1940, IUNIE meaning JUNE.	along the edge thorn wreath, the legend CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR meaning "KING OF ROMANIANS" and king CAROL II facing right
35 mm diameter, 32.5 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge similar with the first 20 lei coin, but the face value is 100 LEI	similar with the first 20 lei coin, but the face value is 100 LEI
35 mm diameter, 32.5 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge similar with the second 20 lei coin, but the face value is 100 LEI	similar with the second 20 lei coin, but the face value is 100 LEI
41 mm diameter, 42 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge The bust of Roman Emperor Trajan to the right, wearing laurel wreath, supporting in the left hand the steel crown of Romania, holding a sword in the right hand (leaned on the shoulder). Around the sword is a wreath made of oak leaves. In the background lies a wheat field. In exergue: 8 IUNIE 1930 / 8 IUNIE 1940. Without face value.	along the edge inscription CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR meaning "KING OF ROMANIANS", in the middle the king on horseback riding left, wearing royal guard uniform and the cloak of Michael the Brave's Order, holding marshall baton. In exergue two branches, above them inscription 10 ANI meaning "10 YEARS". Along the edge, at the bottom left, the name of the engraver, E.W. BECKER.
41 mm diameter, 42 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, grained edge Along the edge inscriptions 8 IUNIE 1930 (at left) and 8 IUNIE 1940 (at right), at center, on a wheat field, Carol taking an earthenware pot with water from the peasant woman Modura. Behind Carol the propeller of an airplane and, in the background, sunrays and hills. In exergue is a small branch. Without face value.	along the edge inscription CAROL II REGELE ROMANILOR meaning "KING OF ROMANIANS", in the middle the king on horseback riding right, wearing royal guard uniform and the cloak of Michael the Brave's Order, holding marshall baton. In exergue two branches. Along the edge, at the bottom right, the name of the engraver, E.W. BECKER.

The gold coin pictures above are present on Romanian Coins through the kind permission of Mr. **J. Ardelean**.

The six gold coins set (after some sources, there are two sets of three coins each) was struck to celebrate the tenth year of reign for Carol II.

About the great gold pieces

The great gold pieces, having 41 millimeters in diameter and 42 grams, also known as Emperor Trajan respectively Peasant Woman Modura - were defined by the coin set emission Law nr. 1775 from June 1940 as decorative coins. The great gold pieces are close to medals. Based only on the leu/gram ratio, they must have a face value of 129 lei and several bani.

It seems that the peasant woman Modura is the woman that, on June 7th 1930, brought water to Carol to drink. That day Carol unexpectedly entered the country and, heading to Cluj-Napoca, landed with his airplane at Vadul Crişului, near Oradea, due to the lack of fuel.

About the mintage and about the mass of the coins

According to Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog in 2009, the mintage of 20 and 100 lei was 346 pieces each, and 348 each for the great gold coins.

In 2013 Romfilatelia put on sale a series of four stamps, under the name of "Numismatic Collection of the National Bank of Romania - Romanian Golden Coins" [Colecţia numismatică a Băncii Naţionale a României - monede româneşti de aur]. The highest value features one of the golden 20 lei from 1939. On the page describing the series on the Romfilatelia website, the information exists about the mintage of the 1939 and 1940 golden coins: each of the six coins from 1940 would have been minted in 500 pieces, according to this account. The site hints somehow that this information comes directly from the NBR.

It is very interesting to observe that the 20 lei 1940 pieces (and the 20 lei coins from 1939, presented on the previous page) have 6.5 grams. The 20 lei coins struck under Carol I (in 1868, 1870, 1883, 1884, 1890, 1906), and the coin struck in 1927 and bearing the effigy of king Ferdinand (and year 1922) have 6.452 grams. The coin-medal "Transylvania of Ours" is a bit heavier than the regular 20 lei coins, having 6.55 grams instead of 6.452 grams.

The weight of the "galbeni mari" is tied to the weight of the ducat - 1 ducat weighing approximately 3.49 grams, out of which 3.44 grams of pure gold, the fineness of god being 98.6%. The 42 grams represent the weight of 12 ducats. At a fineness of 90%, "galbenul mare" contains around as much pure gold as 11 ducats.

About June 8th, 1930

As you see on the obverse, 8 IUNIE (JUNE 8th) 1930 is the celebration day. That is the day Carol II was voted king by the Parliament, through an unconstitutional act succeding his return in the country the previous day. In 1927 king Ferdinand closed his eyes forever and Carol II should have followed, the last being married to the Greek princess Elena and having a child with her called Mihai (Michael). He was not such a good husband and father as he left his wife and children for a certain lover of his, Miss Wolf, and as he was not to become a good king either. Consequence of this absurd situation, in 1926 already Carol II had given up his succession to the throne completly accordingly to the apliable laws and the Romanian parliament had sanctioned this renunciation. So, the young Mihai became in 1927 the LAWFUL king (the year king Ferdinand died), a regency being made up for him, chief of which being patriarch Miron Cristea as head of the Church. That explains the coins struck in 1930 having a child king on obverse.

Helped by the Liberal Party, Carol II returned to Romania in 1930 as usurper of his son to become an unlawful king, technically speaking, through a coup d'état and openly violating the Constitution.

Carol II brought immorality and corruption to Romania. He became dictator in 1938. Due to the internal and foreign hardships of the time, Carol II in 1940 already reckoned himself uncapable of reigning on and adbicated in favor of his still young son, leaving the state power to general Antonescu. The former king settled in Portugal and married eventually (in 1947, at Rio) to the woman that he openly held lover for so very long in contempt of such a religious people as the Romanians.

The earthly remains of king Carol II returned to Romania on 13th of February 2003 and were buried the next day in the royal burial abbey of Curtea de Argeş.

The pictures of 20 lei 1940 coins above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The pictures of 100 lei 1940 above is present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. Clark Smith, numismatist and renowned specialist in world gold coins.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 lei 1941

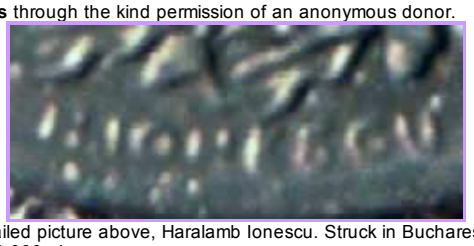
Next coin

20 mm diameter, 3.2 g, zinc, flat edge
denomination "2 LEI", wreath made from corncobs, wheat ears and oat ears

inscription "REGATUL ROMANIEI" meaning "KINGDOM OF ROMANIA", crown, year 1941 and leaves (laurel above and oak bottom). Along the rim, at the bottom, is placed H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage 101.778.000 coins.

The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.



The name of the engraver can be seen on the detailed picture above, Haralamb Ionescu. Struck in Bucharest. In **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) the mintage figure is presumed to be 97.000.000 pieces.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1942

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 4.5 g, zinc 100%, flat edge
denomination "5 LEI" and wheat ears. Along the rim, under denomination 5, is placed H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

inscription "REGATUL ROMANIEI" meaning "KINGDOM OF ROMANIA", crown, year 1942, a laurel branch above and an oak branch below.

Mintage: 140.000.000 coins

This coin was struck at Berlin, in Germany. It was also struck in 1943, but all the coins show the year 1942. The other zinc issues - 2 lei 1941 and 20 lei 1942, 1943 and 1944, presented on the previous and the next page, were struck at Bucharest Mint.

The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The detail picture of 5 lei 1942 coin at right appears on the site thanks to the kind permission of Mr **Cristian Ciuplea**.

Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1942, 1943, 1944

Next coin

26 mm diameter, 6 g, zinc 100%, grained edge
denomination "20 LEI", wreath made from corncobs, wheat ears and oat ears. Along the rim in the lower obverse, somehow right, is placed H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

inscription "REGATUL ROMANIEI" meaning "KINGDOM OF ROMANIA", crown, year 1942 and leaves (laurel above and oak bottom)

Mintage: 44.000.000 coins in 1942
25.783.000 coins in 1943
5.034.000 coins in 1944

These coins where struck at Bucharest.
The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

250 lei 1941 TOTUL PENTRU TARA

Next coin

30 mm diameter, 12 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, flat edge
denomination "250 LEI", Romanian coat of arms and year 1941, wreath made from grapevine with leaves and clusters and wheat ears
Incuse on the edge: TOTUL PENTRU TARA

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing left.
Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 2.250.000 coins

About 250 lei 19#40 - TOTUL PENTRU TARA

The 250 lei coins struck under Mihai featuring **TOTUL PENTRU TARA** on the edge and **19#40** on the obverse were never released, being melted. They were struck starting with December 18th 1940. In fact, the dividing ensign inside the year's digits was the very reason that brought doom to the issue. It was the emblem of the Legionary Movement, here replaced by one #, to which it resembles to a certain extent (it lacks the cross inside the middle of the sharp). The rebellion of 21st - 23rd January 1941, smothered by marshall Ion Antonescu with the help of the army, led to an abrupt ending to the Movement and to the almost complete destruction of these coins. (The Legionary Movement was a fascist orientation movement that assumed political power for a few months in 1940 and 1941 but was disavowed during the uprising by Germany that had not deemed the legionaries trustworthy despite their orientation.)

The order of melting the entire batch was issued before the release, yet - as usual - some survived to make up a special challenge for the Romanian coin collectors.

The coin picture at left is present on Romanian Coins through the kind permission of Mr. **J. Ardelean**.

The piece above has digit 1 stamped above the year. One legend says that in 1945 Haralamb Ionescu, the coin engraver, struck a second batch of only 10 or 12, that he numbered.

Another legend, not contradicting the first, puts it that in 1998 a batch of such coins was struck with the original dies. These fakes would have the inscription on the edge poorly impressed, as the original ring used for the sentence on the edge was no longer to be found. The legionary ensign on the edge was made with a sharp pick afterwards. The rim of the batch is straight, while the rim of the originals is slightly chamfered. A few pieces of such a batch hit the market the last years. (information received from Mr **Cristian Ciuplea**)

About 250 lei 1941 - TOTUL PENTRU TARA

These coins should have been struck, conformingly to a royal decree from March 1st 1941, in 14.800.000 pieces. The coins were released into circulation after March 19th, and withdrawn in May and June. It seems that about 94% of the coins that entered the market were withdrawn. Most probably the withdrawal was caused by the edge inscription. This issue was replaced by a new one, with NIHIL SINE DEO on the edge. [Liliana-Nicoleta Hanganu, Mărci poştale, proiecte de monede şi probe de bancnote din perioada statului naţional-legionar (septembrie 1940 - ianuarie 1941), Cercetări numismatice VIII, 2002 - Stamps, coin projects and banknote essays from the period of national-legionary state (September 1940 - January 1941), Numismatic Researches]

The 250 lei coins struck under Mihai differ by the inscriptions they have on the edge. The ones featuring **NIHIL SINE DEO** (**NOTHING WITHOUT GOD** in Latin) as well as the ones with **TOTUL PENTRU TARA** (meaning **ALL FOR THE HOMELAND**) that entered circulation were struck in 1941. As a second distinction besides the edge engraving, inscription **1941** on the value bearing face is not guarded by two wavy lines on the **TOTUL PENTRU TARA** coin and thusly unlike to the **NIHIL SINE DEO** variant (previous page).

The pictures of the incuse inscription (see above) show that three identical signs were used to separate the words. Clearly, the sign is the emblem of the Legionary Movement. The coins bearing this emblem on one side of theirs were melted. Why were these coins released to circulation? It is very hard to believe that nobody knew about the sign on the edge. In monograph Monede şi bancnote româneşti the coin is described in full detail, but the sign on the edge is mistakenly considered to be a square. In the table with separating signs on the edge this ensign is missing completely.

Romanian coins

Previous coin

250 lei 1941 NIHIL SINE DEO

Next coin

30 mm diameter, 12 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, flat edge
denomination "250 LEI", Romanian coat of arms and year 1941, wreath made from grapevine with leaves and clusters and wheat ears
Incuse on the edge: NIHIL SINE DEO

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing left.
Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 13.750.000 coins

The coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

About 250 lei 1941 - NIHIL SINE DEO

These coins entered circulation on 5th-7th of June 1941, replacing the similar issue with TOTUL PENTRU TARA on the edge. [Liliana-Nicoleta Hanganu, Marci pootale, proiecte de monede oi probe de bancnote din perioada statului na?ional-legionar (septembrie 1940 - ianuarie 1941), Cercetari numismatice VIII, 2002 - Stamps, coin projects and banknote essays from the period of national-legionary state (September 1940 - January 1941), Numismatic Researches]

The 250 lei coins struck under Michael differ in the inscriptions they have on the edge. Both the ones featuring **NIHIL SINE DEO** (**NOTHING WITHOUT GOD** in Latin) and the ones with **TOTUL PENTRU TARA** (meaning **ALL FOR THE HOMELAND**) that entered circulation were struck in 1941. As a second distinction besides the edge engraving, inscription **~ 1941 ~** is guarded by two wavy lines on the **NIHIL SINE DEO** coin only and thusly unlike to the **TOTUL PENTRU TARA** variant (next page).

Three rhomboidal adorned signs separate the words of the incuse inscription NIHIL SINE DEO on the edge. As it can be seen in the pictures above, the small axes of the rhombi are horizontal.

Coins with the face value of 250 lei were struck also under the king Carol II, in 1939 and 1940. These coins bear on the edge the inscriptions MUNCA CREDINTA REGE NATIUNE. Although the faces bearing the value of 250 lei seem to be identical to both kings, they are different. An obvious difference is shown in the picture below (the wheat leaf near the digit 2 in 250 is straight on the Carol II coins, at left or bent on the Michael 1941 coins, at right).

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

500 lei 1941

Next coin

37 mm diameter, 25 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, flat edge; incuse on the edge: PRIN STATORNICIE LA IZBANDA, meaning THROUGH FAITHFULNESS TO VICTORY denomination "500 LEI", inscription MOLDOVA·LUI·STEFAN·IN·VECI·A·ROMANIEI = STEPHEN'S MOLDAVIA FOREVER ROMANIAN and Stephen the Great and the Holy consecrating a church.

inscription "MIHAI·I·REGELE·ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing left and year 1941. Under the neck lies Ioana Bassarab, the engraver's name.

Mintage 775.000 coins.

The beginning of the motto PRIN STATORNICIE LA IZBANDA (found on other two coins, 12.5 lei 1906 and 25 lei 1906, with the form ISBINDA) is marked by a Maltese cross (a cross with arms like arrowheads, pointing inwards). The inscription on the edge can take various positions respective to the faces of the coin. It can start from anywhere and can be read as the obverse or the reverse face up or down. This observation is accurate for all the incuse inscriptions or ornaments on the edge of the Romanian coins from the beginnings up to present (2004).

For the inscriptions on the coin faces V instead of U was used. The letter A does not have its horizontal line. Other letters too look quite different: S, C and D. This font was in vogue in the years before the WW2, being used, for example, in several philatelic issues. For the motto on the edge another font was used.

This is one of the very few Romanian coins with the matching side direction: top obverse - top reverse (like medals). On the large majority the Romanian coins the sides are placed top obverse - bottom reverse.

The coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The main element of the coin design pictures the Moldavian voivod Stephen the Great and the Holy, knelt, consecrating a church. It seems to be inspired from a picture inside the evangel (or gospel) from 1473, ordered by Stephen the Great for the Humor monastery and manufactured by hieromonach Nicodim (ordained priest, hieromonachoi in Greek).

The mantle worn by the voivod is very loose, with many folds, without sleeves and with a narrow hem. The voivod has whiskers and long hair, as he was represented in the pictures in his epoch, on epitrachelions or on votive paintings (images with miniature of the monuments, held by the founders that offer them to patron saints - the name comes from the Latin votum, meaning promise or vow). The epitrachelion is a stole, a long scarf-like cloth, decorated with religious motifs, worn by the Orthodox priests and by the high hierarchs when officiating the religious service. On such an epitrachelion, preserved at Putna monastery, the voivod Stephen the Great and the Holy is depicted (see image at left).

The opinion exists that on the coin is represented the very church of the Putna monastery and is widely spread. The resemblance with the actual aspect of the church is quite weak.

Another very old painting of Stephen the Great is presented at left - the lower picture. This is a fragment from the votive painting of Dobrovăţ Monastery near Iaşi. The stone church of Dobrovăţ was founded by

Stephen the Great in 1503, being finished by Bogdan III, son of Stephen. The church was painted in 1529, in the first reign of Petru Rareş, another son of Stephen the Great.

The great Moldavian voivod is also present on other Romanian coins: 20 lei 1991, 5000 lei 2004 - Stephen the Great's Death Quincentenary, 1 leu, 5 and 100 lei 2007 - 550 years since the enthronement of Stephen the Great in Moldavia and 10 lei 2008 - Voroneţ Monastery.
Stephen the Great also appears on several coin issued by the Republic of Moldavia: 100 lei 2000 - 525 years from the battle of Vaslui and 100 lei 2004 - 500 years since his death.

This coin is a metal record of the liberation of the eastern Moldavia, between the rivers Prut and Nistru (Dniester or Dnestr), from the Soviet Union occupation. The big cities Cernăuţi (today Chernovtsy, in Ukraine) and Chişinău (the Russian name is Kishinyov) were liberated on July 5th and respectively on July 16th 1941. On July 26th the city of Cetatea Albă (named Belgorod-Dnestrovsky by the Russians, Akkerman by the Turks, both meaning White Castle, the same as in Romanian) was taken back and thus the defeated Soviet troops were chased over the borders of the Homeland. Basarabia (Bessarabia) and Northern Bucovina (Bukovina) had fallen to Russian hands after the ultimatum received by Romania on June 26th 1940.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

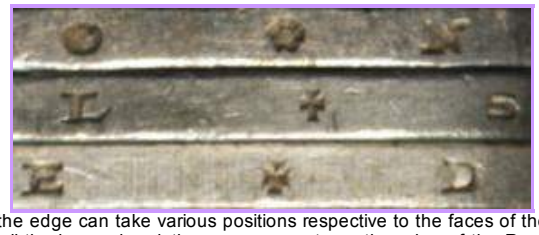
200 lei 1942

Next coin

**24 mm diameter, 6 g, silver 83.5%,
copper 16.5%, flat edge, outer pearl circle
Incuse on the edge: NIHIL SINE DEO
denomination "200 LEI", ROMANIA, Romanian coat of arms and year 1942**

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing right, outer pearl circle . Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage 30.025.000 coins.



The inscription on the edge can take various positions respective to the faces of the coin. It can start from anywhere and can be laid on the obverse or on the reverse. This observation is true for all the incuse inscriptions or ornaments on the edge of the Romanian coins from the beginnings up to present (2010). In the image on the left the marks that separate the words NIHIL, SINE and DEO are pictured. In the image on the right is pictured the sign before NIHIL. It is a sort of six petal rose and not a circle with three equidistant rays inside, as shown in the monograph Monede şi bancnote româneşti (Romanian coins and banknotes).

The silver coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The images above picture a counterfeit weighing only 4.45 grams instead of 6, the weight of the original coin.
The pictures of the fake coin above were provided for **Romanian coins** by Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

Romanian coins

Previous coin

100 lei 1943, 1944

Next coin

28 mm diameter, 8.5 g, nickel plated iron on 3.5% of the width, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: NIHIL SINE DEO
denomination "100 LEI" and year 1943 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right); crown

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head to the right. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage 1943: 40.590.000 coins
Mintage 1944: 21.289.446 coins

In 1943 were struck 40.590.000 coins and in 1944 other 21.289.446 coins. After the book **Monetele României** written by Octavian Iliescu and Paul Radovici (Coins of Romania, 2004) coins of 100 lei bearing the year 1944 were struck also in 1945.

These coins were struck on nickel-plated iron planchets. The planchets were made by the German company Vereinigte Deutsche Metallwerke AG (VDM) at Altena, a city from North Rhine - Westphalia. The plant of Altena was specialized in nickel metallurgy, and most probably here were melted the 50 and 100 lei nickel coins issued in 1936-1938 and withdrawn from circullation. The recovered nickel was partially used for plating the mentioned iron planchets, the rest having been used by the German industry.

The inscription on the edge can take various positions respective to the faces of the coin. It can start from anywhere and can be laid on the obverse or on the reverse. This observation is true for all the incuse inscriptions or ornaments on the edge of the Romanian coins from the beginnings up to present (2010). In the image above are pictured the marks that separate the words NIHIL, SINE and DEO. The same signs were used also for the 10000 lei 1947 coin.

The pictures of 100 lei 1943 and 1944 coins above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The picture and the text above - written in italics - are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

The effigy variant of the common 100 lei a.k.a. "Mihai with wrinkles" exists and there is no doubt that it is the result of an intentional changing of one of the dies used for the 1943 coins.

These "wrinkles" are in reality 8 clear, distinct and parallel notches, made on the regular die, so that on the coin they appear as prominences. Thus there are 6 prominences at the canthus (the corner of the eye), parallel with the line that marks the upper eyelid and two towards the nose, smaller, unequal, but parallel with the first. So, it is obvious that these prominences do not represent fissures or other die flaws (in this case the prominences can not be parallel, being irregular), but an intentional changing made by the engraver.

The significance of these coins is intuitive, though it is only pure speculation: it seems very possible that the engraver H. Ionescu expressed in this way (very discreetly) the great concern that the young king faced in that year of major strain for Romania - 1943.

In the pictures below (presented on the site through the kind permission of Mr. **Yu_L.Yan**) are another piece with wrinkles and one with teardrop. On 100 lei - Mihai with teardrop - in the corner of the eye is placed a "tear"-like prominence on the effigy.

Just below there is a struck error appeared as result of a blank shift respective to the die. The images are present on **Romanian coins** thanks to the kind contribution of Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

500 lei 1944

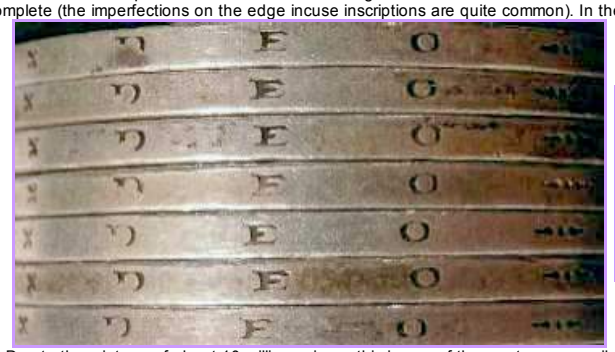
Next coin

32 mm diameter, 12 g, silver 70%,
copper 30%, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: NIHIL SINE DEO
denomination "500 LEI", ROMANIA, year 1944, Romanian coat of arms; outer pearl circle

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing left; outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 9.731.000 coins

The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.
The inscription on the edge features various positions with respect to the faces of the coin. It can start from anywhere and can be laid on the obverse or on the reverse. This observation is true for all the incuse inscriptions or ornaments on the edge of the Romanian coins from the beginnings up to present (2004). In the image on the left a striking error is pictured, with the letter D in DEO incomplete (the imperfections on the edge incuse inscriptions are quite common). In the image on the right the marks that separate the words NIHIL, SINE and DEO are pictured.



Due to the mintage of about 10 millions pieces this is one of the most common silver Romanian coins.

The images above picture a counterfeit weighing only 9.65 grams instead of 12, the weight of an original coin.
The pictures of the fake coin above were provided for **Romanian coins** by Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

Transylvania of Ours 1944 medal/coin

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 6.55 g, gold 90%, copper 10%, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: NIHIL SINE DEO
Overimposed heads of Michael the Brave, Ferdinand and Mihai inside a circle; outside inscription ARDEALUL NOSTRU (above), meaning TRANSYLVANIA OF OURS and years 1601, 1918 and 1944 below
- designed by Haralambie Ionescu -

inscription ROMANIA around a crowned Romanian eagle (aquila) head and coats of arms of Romanian counties in Transylvania ripped in 1940
- designed by Ioana Bassarab Starostescu and Ştefan Iordan -

Mintage: 1.000.000 pieces

This piece was struck to "etch in evocative gold the day of Northern Transylvania liberation and to be transmitted and inherited from generation to generation the concrete remembrance of these history pages".

The medal was related to the National Restoration Loan, a public loan that was to be used to pay the war debts of Romania. Such a medal could be bought for 15.000 de lei by those who had bought state titles in amount of 50.000 lei.

On the reverse are depicted the coats of arms belonging to the Romanian counties in the northern Transylvania ripped in 1940 by Hungary with the support of fascist Germany and Italy. They are, in counterclockwise order, starting at 12 o'clock: Trei Scaune, Năsăud, Odorhei, Cluj, Satu Mare, Bihor, Sălaj, Maramureş, Mureş, Ciuc and Someş. In 1944 this territories were being liberated.

Coin or medal?

One might think this is not actually a coin because no denomination value is to be found on either sides. In fact this coin was struck almost accordingly to the Latin Monetary Union rules and characteristics the 20 lei gold coins issued in the 19th century conformed (20 lei 1868, 20 lei 1870, 20 lei 1883 (1884) or 1890, 20 lei 1906, 20 lei 1922). Besides, the coin was struck in a satisfactory number, one million pieces, so that it circulated along the other gold coins. Being made of a precious metal, this is a golden COIN made in the acception of medieval and ancient coins.

These pieces (also known as cockerels or roosters in Romania - and having the same value as the French twenty francs pieces struck at the beginning of the 19th century) continued to circulate thanks to their intrinsic value. Inscribing the value of 20 on those pieces would not have made sense, given the inflation of the time. The hypothesis to be a speculative medal aimed at collectors does not stand due to its large mintage. (Even in nowadays Romania golden coins are circullating, the initial market value had and inscribed on them being ignored.)

Moreover, the piece was actually used in the era as coin, although the use was not legal.

The obverse contains:

-effigy of Michael the Brave, the first to unite the three Romanian principalities (Moldavia, Walachia and Transylvania) under the same rule, though for a short time (1600-1601),

-effigy of Ferdinand, under the reign of which the Transylvanian Romanians rejoined their brothers in 1918 and

-effigy of Michael, the reigning king.

The word ARDEAL you can see is the oldest name Transylvania bore.

The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

Inside book **The History of Coins in Romania (Chronology - Bibliography - Glossary)** written by renowned Romanian numismatist Octavian Iliescu (Editura Enciclopedică, Bucharest, 2002, in English) the hypothesis is presented that the mass difference between the medal and the coin standard appeared as an error happened at the mint; the pieces should have had the same characteristics as the usual 20 lei coin. Initially the National Bank had provided enough gold for 1.000.000 pieces of 20 lei. Because the mint has struck the pieces a bit heavier, another 100 kilograms of gold were delivered from the bank's reserves.

The law for issuing "Transylvania of Ours" medals

The "Transylvania of Ours" medals were struck and sold based on the Law no. 656, published in Official Gazette no. 298 from December 23rd 1944. We quote below the articles of that law.

Article 1. The Ministry of Finance is authorized to strike through National Mint and to sell gold commemorative medals, up to a maximum of one million pieces, having the characteristics given at article 3.

Article 2. The price and the selling conditions of these commemorative medals will be set up through a decision of the Minister of Finance.

Article 3. The gold medals released into circulation will have the following characteristics:

A. Composition

a) The medals are made from gold and copper alloy.

b) The title of the alloy is 900 to a thousand gold, with a tolerance of +/- 2 at a thousand, consequently it can vary from 898 to 902 at a thousand.

c) The color of the medal is yellow-golden, corresponding to the title of the alloy.

B. Dimensions

a) The diameter of the medal is of 21 mm, with a tolerance of +/- 0.05 mm, consequently it can vary between 20.95 and 21.05 mm.
b) The weight of a medal is 6.55 grams, with a tolerance of +/- 2 at a thousand, namely it can vary between 6.5369 and 6.5631 grams.
C. Engraving
a) The face (obverse) of the medal represents the effigies of HM King Mihai I, of King Ferdinand I, both wearing the war helmet and of Michael the Brave, wearing the characteristic voivodal cap. The effigies are in profile, superimposed, to the left. Around the effigies is engraved with capital letters the text: "Ardealul nostru" and years "1601, 1918, 1944". The portraits are framed inside a thin circle in relief.
b) The back (reverse) of the medal has engraved in the middle the head of the heraldic eagle from the country's coat of arms, having written in the lower part the text "Romania". Round about are represented the coat of arms of the 11 counties from Northern Transylvania, recovered in year 1944.
c) The edge of the medal forms a flat cylindrical surface, having incuse, with capital letters, text "Nihil sine Deo".
Article 4. The commemorative medals put on sale in the conditions of the present law are assimilated with the objects made of precious metals excepted from the legal restrictions concerning their possession and circulation, in conformity with article 3 of Law no. 1907 from August 12th 1936, modified by Law no. 3203 from September 12th 1938, published in Official Gazette no. 213 from September 14th 1938.

From the text of the law we can draw some conclusions:
1. the official name of this piece was "jubilee medal";
2. the mintage figure of 1.000.000 pieces is the maximum mintage, so it is possible that the real mintage is smaller than one million (since today we did not find any information about the number of pieces effectively sold to the population);
3. the mass of the coin is 6.55 grams through the will of the lawmaker and not due to an error, so the difference between the medal/coin and the gold 20 lei coins was intentional.

About the confiscation of the medals/coins "Transylvania of Ours" by the Communist regime

The Law no. 284 from August 15th 1947, published in the Official Gazette in the same day, stipulated that the gold, the foreign currencies and other means of payment must be handed to the National Bank of Romania. The medal "Transylvania of Ours" was explicitly mentioned in more than one article of this law (articles cited in the following paragraph).

Article 1. The persons established in the country, having in property or in possession with any title, the values specified below at article 2, are obliged to hand them to the National Bank of Romania in exchange for lei, at the official exchange rate, in term of 15 days from the date of publishing of the present law in the Official Gazette.[...]
Article 2. It will be handed:
a) The gold in any form, as well as the jubilee medals issued on the basis of Decree-law no. 656 from 1944, with the following exceptions: the gold in the forms mentioned by article 6 from Law no. 638 from 1946; the necklaces made from Austrian large and small ducats (large and small yellows); the mahmudele and icusari [our note: gold Turkish coins], as well as the numismatic collections recognized as such by the National Bank of Romania, inside the term for handing established by the present law. These exceptions are restrictive. The jewels made from gold coins struck after year 1800 are not excepted; [...]
Article 14. The one who infringes the orders of the present law will be punished with the confiscation of the values not yielded or not declared, with 5 - 25 years of prison and with a fine equal to five times the confiscated value, without the possibility of extenuating circumstances to be granted. [...]
The confiscated values in the advantage of the State will be liquidated for the state at the official exchange rate. The National Bank of Romania will retain from the value in lei of the confiscated goods 25% for its suing costs and 20% for distributing as bonuses, from which 10% for the denouncer and 10% for the discloser [...].
Article 16. The demands of the Law no. 656 from 1944, concerning the circulation of the commemorative gold medals, are and remain abrogated; the demands of article 7, b from the Law no. 638 from 1946 are also abrogated.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

200 lei 1945

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 7.5 g, copper 63%, zinc 37%, grained edge
denomination "200 LEI" and year 1945 inside a wreath formed by a laurel branch (left) and an oak branch (right), crown above

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing right. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 1.399.000 coins

These coins were struck at Bucharest mint. The book "Monetele României" (Coins of Romania, Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) the mintage for this coin is assumed to be 20.025.000 pieces, and brass composition is 63% copper and 37% zinc. In MBR the coin is assumed to contain 80% copper, 19% zinc and 1% nickel.

The pictures of 200 lei 1945 are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

500 lei 1945

Next coin

30 mm diameter, 10 g, copper 63%, zinc 37%, grained edge
denomination "500 LEI", year 1945, Romanian coat of arms, outer pearl circle

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing left, outer pearl circle. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 3.422.000 coins

The pictures of 500 lei 1945 are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.
According to the information from the book Monetele României (Iliescu and Radovici, 2004), the 500 lei 1945 coins were struck in 4.942.400 pieces.
Several Romanian coins enjoy a number of variants, making the coin collecting time more pleasant. Unfortunately, many of their peculiarities are but lesser importance, superficial nature details that are often due only to matrix imperfections. Even so, they are priced twice as the average or better yet. Below we display such a variant, not previously known to the Romanian numismatic literature. It belongs to the 500 lei coin struck in 1945 (under Michael I).

500 lei 1945 (Michael I) with hair

As seen (on the two images above), on the lower region of the reverse (the side with king's effigy), a criss-crossing hair embossed for over a centimeter out of the normal relief of the coin. It starts at the right of letter **M** and continues past the intersection with the neck of the effigy. The most probable the matrix cracked while striking, allowing for a quantity of material to go in it and thus being added over the normal surface. Several pieces of this variant must have been struck.
Honestly speaking, such coins are sheer flaws, yet their quotation proves a real interest from the numismatists. The 1 leu of 1873 with broken **L** is an example, the same for the 1 ban of 1900 with imperfect **R** and the 2 bani of 1882 with various incomplete letters. In which concerns the 2 bani coin of 1900, there are two variants characterized by the presence of a hair (usually called branchlet). Variant 29b has such a problem starting at the penultimate **0** of the year and going past the wheat ear, and variant 29c starting at letter **N** of ROMANIA and reaching the penultimate **0** of the year (classification was made accordingly to the Bible of Romanian numismatis, **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** de George Buzdugan, Octavian Luchian and Constantin Oprescu, 1976).

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

500 lei 1946

Next coin

24 mm diameter, 1.5 g, aluminum, grained edge
ROMANIA, denomination "500 LEI" and a laurel wreath

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing right and year ·1946·. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 5.823.000 coins.

The coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The Decree no. 1814 from June 11th 1946, published in the Official Gazette no. 137 from June 17th 1946, settled the issuing of metallic coins of 500 and 1000 lei in aluminum and 2000 lei in brass (information from book "Monetele Romaniei" = Coins of Romania, by Octavian Iliescu and Paul Radovici, Bucharest, 2004, in Romanian, written in 1969 but not published at that time.

The aluminum 1000 lei coins were not issued. The piece can be considered to be a pattern or maybe an essay. The pictures of the 1000 lei 1946 coin below are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **P.K.**.

The pictures of the coin below are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Tudor Ciumara**. The two zeroes from 500 are missing and the edge of the coin is flat instead of grained. The coin weight 1.5 grams and have 23.6 mm in diameter.

It is possible that the coin is in this state as a result of a striking flaw. Another explanation, more plausible, is that the coin was ground in order to remove the edge teeth and the last two zeroes of the face value. The modification was made after the monetary stabilization from August 15th 1947. The 500 lei 1946 thus modified resembled the 5 lei 1947 coin and could have been used as a fictitious 5 lei coin. So, it can be considered a fake against the issuer.

The picture at right - 500 lei 1946, with a teardrop like piece of metal below king's eye - appears on the site thanks to the kind permission of Mr **Cristian Ciuplea**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2000 lei 1946

Next coin

24 mm diameter, 5.1 g, copper 63%, zinc 37%, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: NIHIL SINE DEO
denomination "2000 LEI", ROMANIA and Romanian coat of arms, at left and at right a flower-shaped cross.

the inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing right and year 1946 between two square signs. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 24.619.000 coins

According to the information from the book Monetele României (Iliescu and Radovici, 2004), the 2000 lei 1946 coins were struck in 23.500.000 pieces.

The inscription on the edge can take various positions respective to the faces of the coin. It can start from anywhere and can be laid on the averse or on the reverse. This observation is true for all the incuse inscriptions or ornaments on the edge of the Romanian coins from the beginnings up to present (2010). In the image on the left are pictured the marks that separate the words NIHIL, SINE and DEO. In the image on the right is pictured the sign before NIHIL. It is a six petal rose (this sign was also used on 200 lei 1942 coin) and not a third cross, as it is said inside monograph Monede şi bancnote româneşti (Romanian coins and banknotes).

The image on the right proves that for the inscription on the edge various letter arrangements were used.

A variant of 2000 lei 1946 coin

A rare variant of 2000 lei 1946 exists. At normal coins the shield of the House of Hohenzollern is represented with all four quarters empty. The variant has quarters 1 and 3 empty, and quarters 2 and 4 filled. From the heraldic point of view the coat of arms of Great Romania - established by the law of 23rd of June 1923 - has in middle the shield of the House of Hohenzollern, with quarters 1 and 3 charged with silver and 2 and 4 - black.

The coins pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

Just below there is a striking error appeared as result of a blank shift respective to the die. The images are present on **Romanian coins** thanks to the kind contribution of Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

The images below picture a hair type striking error, resulted because of die cracks and taken from two such flawed coins. The images at left (below) are details of the

same coin so we suppose the die implied did not have probably such a long life. The three pictures below were made available to **Romanian coins** by Mr Cătălin Gavrilă.

Romanian coins

Previous coin

25000 lei 1946

Next coin

**32 mm diameter, 12.5 g, silver 70%,
copper 30%, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: NIHIL SINE DEO
denomination "25000 LEI", ROMANIA, olive branches and Romanian coat of arms**

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing right and year 1946 between two square signs. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 2.372.600 coins

separating signs on the edge

short line between olives

The inscription on the edge can take various positions respective to the faces of the coin. It can start from anywhere and can be laid on the obverse or on the reverse. This observation is true for all the incuse inscriptions or ornaments on the edge of the Romanian coins from the beginnings up to present (2010). In the image above are pictured the marks that separate the words NIHIL, SINE and DEO.

This coin has the same diameter and motto on the edge (with the same separating signs) as the 500 lei 1944 coin.

The coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

100000 lei 1946

Next coin

37 mm diameter, 25 g, silver 70%, copper 30%, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: NIHIL SINE DEO
denomination "100000 LEI", ROMANIA, pigeon bringing olive branch to woman symbolising Peace and Romanian coat of arms. Along the rim in the lower obverse, somehow left, is placed A ROMANESCU, the engraver's name.

inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing right and year 1946 between two square signs. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 2.002.000 coins

The inscription on the edge can take various positions respective to the faces of the coin. It can start from anywhere and can be laid on the obverse or on the reverse. This observation is true for all the incuse inscriptions or ornaments on the edge of the Romanian coins from the beginnings up to present (2010). In the images above the five ray stars separating the words NIHIL, SINE and DEO can be seen.

The coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The pictures of 100.000 lei 1946 without the engraver's name is present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **sebii**.

The images below picture a counterfeit weighing only 18.36 grams instead of 25, the weight of an original coin. A good share of the fakes introduced on the market in the period between the two World Wars and during the Second World War were manufactured inside the very Romanian State Mint, with the very original dies (as this one).

The images of the fake coin are present on **Romanian coins** thanks to the kind contribution of Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

10000 lei 1947

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 7.5 g, copper 63%, zinc 37%, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: NIHIL SINE DEO
denomination "10.000 LEI", ROMANIA, olive branches and Romanian coat of arms

the inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing right and year 1947 between two square signs. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 11.850.000 coins

According to the information from the book Monetele României (Iliescu and Radovici, 2004), the 10.000 lei 1947 coins were struck in 6.000.000 pieces.

The inscription on the edge can take various positions respective to the faces of the coin. It can start from anywhere and can be laid on the obverse or on the reverse. This observation is true for all the incuse inscriptions or ornaments on the edge of the Romanian coins from the beginnings up to present (2010). In the image above are pictured the marks that separate the words NIHIL, SINE and DEO. The same separating signs as for 100 lei 1943 and 1944 coins were used.

The coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 bani 1947

Next coin

16 mm diameter, 1.7 g, copper 80%, zinc 19%, nickel 1%, flat edge denomination "50 BANI"

the inscription "ROMANIA", crown and year 1947 between two square signs

Mintage: 13.266.000 coins

In the book Monetele României by Iliescu and Radovici (Coins of Romania, 2004) it is mentioned that these coins were struck at Bucharest and at Budapest, with a mintage of 13.400.000 pieces; the composition given is copper 63% - zinc 37%.

The Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog from 2009 (România - proiecte, probe monetare şi catalogul monedelor emise) mentions that at Budapest 738.000 of 50 bani 1947 were struck, and that these pieces can not be distinguished from the ones struck at Bucharest.

The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The series comprised of 50 bani, 1 leu, 2 lei and 5 lei pieces from 1947 entered circulation subsequently to the monetary reform of August 15th 1947. The monetary reform known in Romania as "Stabilizarea" was aimed at solving the war consequences in which the monetary circulation was concerned and at stimulating the financial recovery of the country. The reform set the value of 1 leu to 6.6 miligrams of gold with the title of 90%. The "stabilization" allowed every citizen to exchange a fixed amount of money, at the exchange rate of 20.000 old lei to 1 new leu. The sum possible to be exchanged varied according to own's occupation between 1.5 and 7.5 milion old lei.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1947

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 2.5 g, copper 63%, zinc 37%, flat edge
denomination "1 LEU" and wheat ears wreath

inscription "ROMANIA", year 1947 and Romanian coat of arms over an olive branch

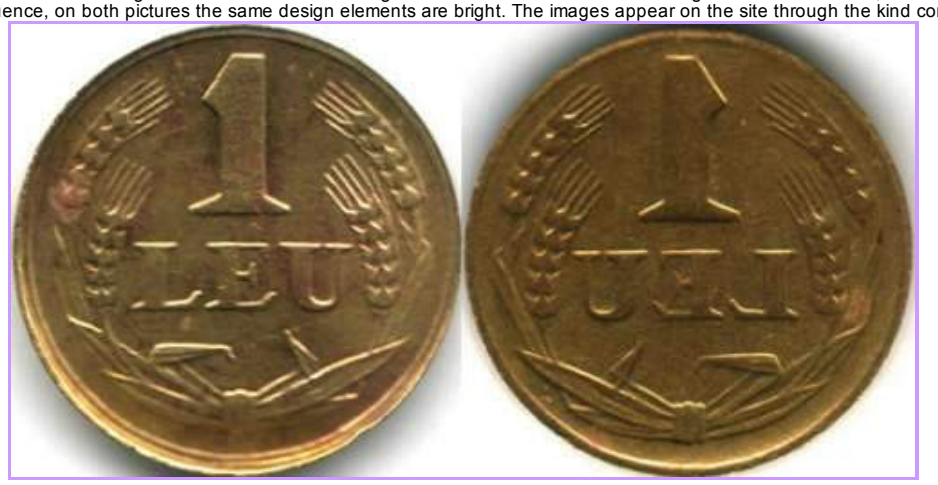
Mintage: 88.341.000 coins

According to the information from the book Monetele României (Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) these coins were struck at Bucharest and at Budapest, and the mintage was 90.000.000 pieces.

The Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog from 2009 mentions - in accordance with monograph Monede şi bancnote româneşti (Romanian coins and banknotes) - that these coins were struck at Bucharest.

The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

Just below there is a strange striking error. The face value side of the coin is struck on both coin sides, one time normally and one time mirrored. On the normally struck face the light source is placed above and the edges toward the source are bright. On the mirrored struck side the light comes from below, so the edges of the incuse region on the coin are bright. As a consequence, on both pictures the same design elements are bright. The images appear on the site through the kind contribution of Mr **Radu Lissner**.



Just below there is a striking error appeared as result of a blank shift respective to the die. The images are present on **Romanian coins** thanks to the kind contribution of Mr. Moise Alexandru-Răzvan.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 lei 1947

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 3.5 g, copper 92%, zinc 8%, flat edge
denomination "2 LEI" and wheat ears wreath

the inscription "ROMANIA", year 1947 and Romanian coat of arms over an olive branch

Mintage: 40.000.000 coins

According to **Monetele României** (Iliescu and Radovici, 2004), this coin was manufactured in Czechoslovakia, at Kremnica mint. The city of Kremnica is placed in the middle of Slovakia (Czechoslovakia was divided in 1993 into the Czech Republic and Slovakia). In the monograph Monede şi bancnote româneşti (Romanian coins and banknotes) this coin is assumed to have been struck at Bucharest Mint.

The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1947

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 1.5 g, aluminum, flat edge
denomination "5 LEI" and wheat ears

the inscription "MIHAI I REGELE ROMANILOR" meaning "KING OF THE ROMANIANS", MIHAI I head facing right and year 1947 between two squares. Under the neck lies H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

Mintage: 52.400.000 coins

It is presumed in monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Romanian coins and banknotes) that this coin was struck at Bucharest, with a mintage of 56.026.000 pieces. In **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) it can be found that the mintage of 52.400.000 coins was partially struck at Bucharest Mint, and partially in Hungary, at Metrom Works. The Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog from 2009 mentions that at Budapest 2.683.000 pieces of 5 lei 1947 were struck, and that these pieces can not be distinguished from the ones struck at Bucharest.

The side with the face value is identical with the one of 5 lei 1942 coin.

The pictures of 5 lei 1947 aluminium coin above appears on the site thanks to the kind permission of Mr **Cristian Ciuplea**.

The coin pictures below are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

Centenary of the 1848 Revolution in Romania

Next coin

38 mm diameter, 25 g, silver 83.5%, copper 16.5%, flat edge outer pearl circle, CENTENARUL ANULUI REVOLUTIONAR 1848, meaning "Centenary of Revolutionary Year 1848", a star; inside linear circle revolutionist Nicolae Bălcescu's effigy, NICOLAE BALCESCU and H.I., standing for Haralamb Ionescu, the engraver.

The inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", year 1948 and Romanian coat of arms, outer pearl circle, inner linear circle.

The silver piece in the pictures is the first or at least the second numismatic issue of the new Romanian People's Republic, appeared as result of the outer Soviet interference. It thusly has a rather special character, being among the first if not the very first metal document of the new people's regime. Although not a regular coin (lacking a face value) we deemed worthy displaying it on **Romanian coins**, as an emblematic token that milestones the shift from the former monarchic regime to the republic. The medal was also judged as such by the issuing authorities, fact proven by the large number of pieces struck, unusual for medals yet specific to coin striking: 500.000.

The diameter is superior to the classic silver 5 lei's struck by Carol though the title is inferior. The diameter matches the one of the homage 5 lei of 1906 (forty years of reign of Carol I).

This medal was a good means of spreading the newly created coat of arms of the state, a coat that stood for the communist regime only, despite all and any Romanian heraldry tradition. Easy to notice, the (red) star atop is still missing, this component being added from 1953 on till 1989. On the obverse there is the effigy of Nicolae Bălcescu (revolutionist in 1848), highly preferred by the communist regime in banknote designing later on, along Tudor Vladimirescu, 1821 revolutionist.

We can say this medal ushers somehow Romania into the new era of people's republic. The title of **Republica Populară Română** lasted from 30th December 1947 until 21st August 1965, when the socialist republic was proclaimed.

Moreover, thanks to its peculiarities, the medal enjoys quite a celebrity and real interest exists towards it.

Fifty years later new numismatic issues followed celebrating a century and a half from the event that shaped the development of modern Romania. In 1998 the National Bank struck an anniversary set of two golden coins (500 and 1000 lei), also present on **Romanian coins**.

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Romanian coins

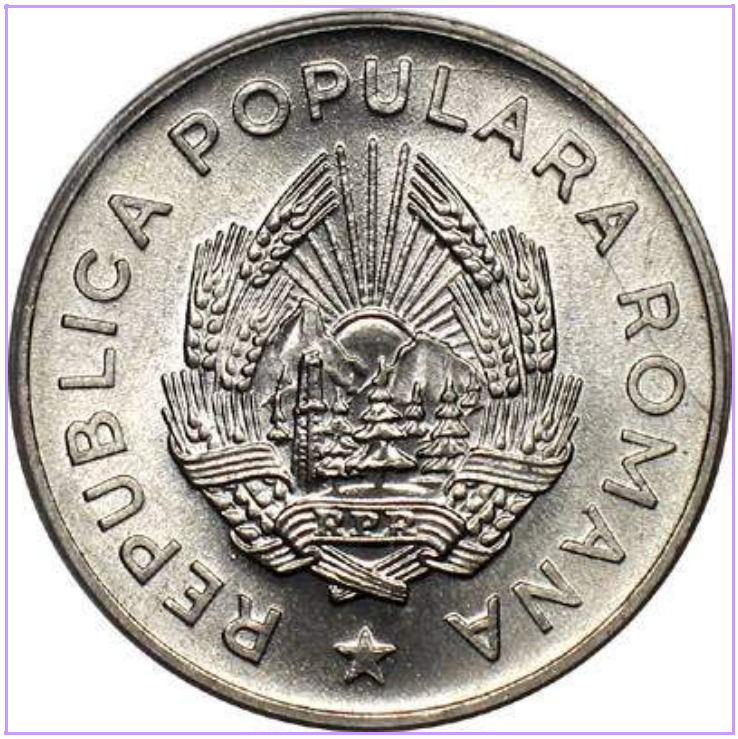
Previous coin

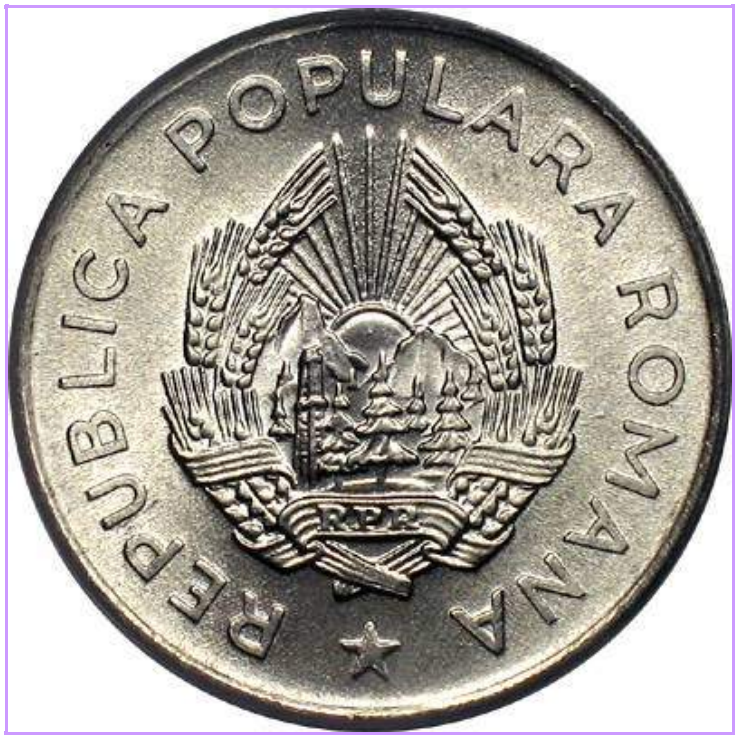
5 lei 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 1.5 g, aluminum, flat edge
denomination "5 LEI" and year 1948 inside an oak wreath. Along the rim, somehow right, is placed H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC" and Romanian coat of arms, below the coat of arms a five-ray star





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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1949, 1950, 1951

Next coin

16 mm diameter, 1.83 g, copper 70%, zinc 30%, flat edge denomination "1 LEU" and year 1951

inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA ★" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC" and sun rising beyond the mountains and an oil rig. Under the soil line is placed H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 lei 1950, 1951

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 2.44 g, copper 70%, zinc 30%, flat edge denomination "2 LEI" and year 1950

the inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", oat ear, corncob and wheat ear. Along the rim in the lower obverse, somehow right, is placed H.I. standing for Haralamb Ionescu, the engraver's name.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1951, 1952

Next coin

16 mm diameter, 0.61 g, aluminum, flat edge
denomination "1 LEU" and year 1951.

inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" and sun rising beyond the mountains, oil rig in front; under the rig H. Ionescu (Haralamb), the engraver's name, and a five-ray star

After the monetary reform of January 28th 1952 the coins of 1 ban, 3, 5, 10 and 25 bani (presented on the following pages of the site) were introduced into circulation. The old coins were withdrawn from circulation, the aluminum 1 leu and 2 lei from 1952 included, the later having thus circulated for a very short time. Probably, very few aluminum coins of 1952 were introduced into circulation the days before the monetary reform of January.

The mintages of these coins are not known. It is certain that 1 leu 1952 is a key date, one of the rarest and hardest to find coins issued during the communist era.

The pictures of 1 leu 1951 and 1952 coins above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

For a long period on this page were displayed pictures of 1 leu 1952 through the kind permission of Mr. **sebii**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

2 lei 1951, 1952

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 0.84 g, aluminum, flat edge denomination "2 LEI" and year 1951

The inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", oat ear, corncob and wheat ear. Along the rim in the lower part of the coin, somehow right, is placed H.I. standing for Haralamb Ionescu, the engraver's name.

After the monetary reform of January 28th 1952 the coins of 1 ban, 3, 5, 10 and 25 bani (presented on the following pages of the site) were introduced into circulation. The old coins were withdrawn from circulation, the aluminum 1 leu and 2 lei from 1952 included, the later having thus circulated for a very short time. Probably, very few aluminum coins of 1952 were introduced into circulation the days before the monetary reform of January.

The mintages of these coins are not known. It is certain that 2 lei 1952 is a key date, one of the rarest and hardest to find coins issued during the communist era, the rarest maybe.

The pictures 2 lei 1951 coin above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The pictures of 2 lei 1952 coin above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

Below you can see a double strike of the 2 lei of 1951 coin and a detail of the most apparent region on it.

Below you can see atriple strike of the 2 lei of 1951 coin and a detail of the most apparent region on it and an off-center struck coin. The pictures are present on Romanian coins through the kind contribution of Mr. **Adrian Popovici**.

REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA
http://romaniancoins.org

1951

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1951

Next coin

26 mm diameter, 2.12 g, aluminum, flat edge
denomination "20 LEI" and a worker standing, with rolled up sleeves, holding a part on anvil with tongs (left hand), holding hammer in the right hand; industrial background (smoke flues, conveyor belt, silos). In the lower obverse, under the anvil, somehow right, is placed H. IONESCU, the engraver's name.

inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", year 1951 flanked on either sides by a pair of squares, Romanian coat of arms

An unconfirmed information exists according to which there would also exist some 20 lei of 1952.
The pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 ban 1952

Next coin

15 mm diameter, 1 g, 95% copper, 5% aluminum, grained edge
denomination "1 BAN" and year 1952

Romanian coat of arms (1948 model - no star)

Mintage: 67.400.000 coins

These coins were struck in the Soviet Union, at Moscow Mint. The bronze used for these coins contains a small amount of aluminum (or zinc, according to MBR).

The series in 1952 is composed of 1 ban, 3, 5, 10 and 25 bani and entered circulation as result of the monetary reform of January 28th 1952. The stabilization was aimed at toning up the role of monetary circulation in economy development. After the reform one leu was worth 79.346 milligrams of fine gold (as oposed to 6.6 milligrams of 90% fineness gold for the former leu). Money exchange has been accomplished at variable ratios, differentiated for the population (20:1), bussiness and state enterprises.

On the 1st of February 1954 the gold content of the leu was raised to 148.112 milligrams of fine gold, although the prices and salaries did not change.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

3 bani 1952

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 2 g, 95% copper, 5% aluminum, grained edge
denomination "3 BANI" and year 1952

Romanian coat of arms (1948 model - no star)

Mintage: 26.100.000 coins

These coins were struck in the Soviet Union, at Moscow Mint. The bronze used for these coins contains a small amount of aluminum (or zinc, according to MBR).
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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 bani 1952

Next coin

20 mm diameter, 2.4 g, 95% copper, 5% aluminum, grained edge denomination "5 BANI" and year 1952

Romanian coat of arms (1948 model - no star)

Mintage: 78.400.000 coins

These coins were struck in the Soviet Union, at Moscow Mint. The bronze used for these coins contains a small amount of aluminum (or zinc, according to MBR).

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

10 bani 1952

Next coin

17.5 mm diameter, 1.8 g, 80% copper, 20% nickel, grained edge denomination "10 BANI" and year 1952 inside an oak wreath

Inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC" and Romanian coat of arms (1948 model - no star), under the coat of arms a small line

Mintage: 37.900.000 coins

This coin was struck in the Soviet Union, at Moscow Mint.
The coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

25 bani 1952

Next coin

22 mm diameter, 3.6 g, 80% copper, 20% nickel, grained edge denomination "25 BANI" and year 1952 inside an oak wreath

Inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC" and Romanian coat of arms (1948 model - no star), under the coat of arms a small line

Mintage: 43.600.000 coins

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. They seem to be made from the same alloy as the 10 bani coins in the same series, which are declared to be cupronickel. It is obvious that these coins cannot be made from nickel, because this metal is ferromagnetic and the coins of this series are not attracted by the magnet.

The coins certain to have been made of nickel as the 50 and 100 lei 1936-1938 or the Canadian cents (e.g. 5 cents struck between 1955 and 1981 or 10 and 25 cents struck after 1968) are strongly attracted by the magnet. The Romanian cupronickel (75% copper and 25% nickel) coins, e.g. the 5, 10 and 20 bani 1905 and 1906 or the 1 and 2 lei 1924 are not attracted by the magnet.

These coins were struck in the Soviet Union, at Moscow Mint.

The pictures of the coin above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 ban 1953, 1954

Next coin

15 mm diameter, 1 g, 95% copper, 5% aluminum, grained edge denomination "1 BAN" and year 1953

Romanian coat of arms (new 1953 model - with star)

Mintage 1953: 8.000.000 coins
Mintage 1954: 15.300.000 coins

These coins were struck at Bucharest Mint. The bronze used for these coins contains a small amount of aluminum (instead of zinc, as MBR claims).

The coins struck from 1953 on have a slight difference on the obverse. The communist inspired coat of arms got a red star atop of it in order to be more alike to the Soviet Union coat of arms. A similar change happened in the Czechoslovakian coat of arms approximately in the same period. See below the Soviet coat of arms and some other Soviet inspired coats of arms bearing the red star atop.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

3 bani 1953, 1954

Next coin

18 mm diameter, 2 g, 95% copper, 5% aluminum, grained edge
denomination "3 BANI" and year 1953

Romanian coat of arms

Mintage in 1953: 13.000.000 coins

These coins were struck at Bucharest Mint. The bronze used for these coins contains a small amount of aluminum (instead of zinc, as MBR claims).

The mintage programmed for 1954 was 33.400.000 pieces, but it was only partially executed. The actual number of issued 3 bani 1954 coins is unknown. However, the catalog prices are far higher for 3 bani 1954 - even 40-50 times higher - than the prices for 3 bani 1953 coin. The 3 bani 1954 coin is a key date, one of the rarest and hardest to find coins issued during the communist era.

The pictures of the 3 bani 1954 coin above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of Mr. **Radu Lissner**.

The pictures of the 3 bani 1953 coin above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The coins struck from 1953 on have a slight difference on the obverse. The communist inspired coat of arms got a red star atop of it in order to be more alike to the Soviet Union coat of arms. A similar change happened in the Czechoslovakian coat of arms approximately in the same period. See below the Soviet coat of arms and some other Soviet inspired coats of arms bearing the red star atop.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 bani 1953 - 1957

Next coin

Romanian coat of arms

20 mm diameter, 2.4 g, bronze, grained edge
denomination "5 BANI" and
year 1954

Mintage 1953: 54.600.000 coins
Mintage 1954: 57.500.000 coins
Mintage 1955: 38.100.000 coins
Mintage 1956: 39.800.000 coins
Mintage 1957: 30.900.000 coins

These coins were struck at Bucharest Mint. The bronze used for these coins contains, besides copper, a small amount of zinc and nickel - as stated by MBR - (or 95% copper and 5% aluminum, according to Schäffer - Stambuliu catalog from 2009).

According to the information from the book Monetele României (Iliescu and Radovici, 2004 - from which the mintages were taken), the 5 bani coins with year 1957 were struck in 1957 and 1958 too.

The 5 bani with year 1958, as the one below, are usually considered patterns. Nevertheless, they are very rare.

The coins and pattern pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The coins struck from 1953 on have a slight difference on the obverse. The communist inspired coat of arms got a red star atop of it in order to be more alike to the Soviet Union coat of arms. A similar change happened in the Czechoslovakian coat of arms approximately in the same period. See below the Soviet coat of arms and some other Soviet inspired coats of arms bearing the red star atop.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

10 bani 1954

Next coin

17 mm diameter, 1.8 g, 80% copper, 20% nickel, grained edge
denomination "10 BANI" and year 1954 inside an oak wreath

Inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC"
and Romanian coat of arms, under the coat of arms a small line

Mintage: 1.600.000 coins

The pictures of the coin above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The coins struck from 1953 on have a slight difference on the obverse. The communist inspired coat of arms got a red star atop of it in order to be more alike to the Soviet Union coat of arms. A similar change happened in the Czechoslovakian coat of arms approximately in the same period. See below the Soviet coat of arms and some other Soviet inspired coats of arms bearing the red star atop.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

25 bani 1953, 1954

Next coin

22 mm diameter, 3.6 g, 80% copper, 20% nickel, grained edge denomination "25 BANI" and year 1953 inside an oak wreath

Inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC" and Romanian coat of arms, under the coat of arms a small line

Mintage 1953: 1.100.000 coins
Mintage 1954: 11.600.000 coins

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. They seem to be made from the same alloy as the 10 bani coins in the same series, which are declared to be cupronickel. It is obvious that these coins cannot be made from nickel, because this metal is ferromagnetic and the coins of this series are not attracted by the magnet.

The coins certain to have been made of nickel as the 50 and 100 lei 1936-1938 or the Canadian cents (e.g. 5 cents struck between 1955 and 1981 or 10 and 25 cents struck after 1968) are strongly attracted by the magnet. The Romanian cupronickel (75% copper and 25% nickel) coins, e.g. the 5, 10 and 20 bani 1905 and 1906 or the 1 and 2 lei 1924 are not attracted by the magnet.

The coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

The coins struck from 1953 on have a slight difference on the obverse. The communist inspired coat of arms got a red star atop of it in order to be more alike to the Soviet Union coat of arms. A similar change happened in the Czechoslovakian coat of arms approximately in the same period. See below the Soviet coat of arms and some other Soviet inspired coats of arms bearing the red star atop.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

10 bani 1955, 1956

Next coin

17.5 mm diameter, 1.8 g, 80% copper, 20% nickel, grained edge
denomination "10 BANI" and year 1956 inside an oak wreath

inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMINA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC"
and Romanian coat of arms, under the coat of arms a small line

Mintage 1955: 4.100.000 coins
Mintage 1956: 18.400.000 coins

The coins of 10 and 25 bani struck in 1955 and 1956 differ from the previous ones due to some orthographical changes that lasted from 1954 over to 1963. The words român (Romanian), România (Romania) and others alike were spelled romîn, Romînia. So these newer coins feature REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMINA instead of ROMANA.
The coin pictures above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

25 bani 1955

Next coin

22 mm diameter, 3.6 g, 80% copper, 20% nickel, grained edge denomination "25 BANI" and year 1955 inside an oak wreath

Inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMINA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC" and Romanian coat of arms, under the coat of arms a small line

Mintage: 16.700.000 coins

The coins of 10 and 25 bani struck in 1955 and 1956 differ from the previous ones due to some orthographical changes that lasted from 1954 over to 1963. The words român (Romanian), România (Romania) and others alike were spelled romîn, Romînia. So these newer coins feature REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMINA instead of ROMANA.

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. They seem to be made from the same alloy as the 10 bani coins in the same series, which are declared to be cupronickel. It is obvious that these coins cannot be made from nickel, because this metal is ferromagnetic and the coins of this series are not attracted by the magnet.

The coins certain to have been made of nickel as the 50 and 100 lei 1936-1938 or the Canadian cents (e.g. 5 cents struck between 1955 and 1981 or 10 and 25 cents struck after 1968) are strongly attracted by the magnet. The Romanian cupronickel (75% copper and 25% nickel) coins, e.g. the 5, 10 and 20 bani 1905 and 1906 or the 1 and 2 lei 1924 are not attracted by the magnet.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 bani 1955, 1956

Next coin

25 mm diameter, 4.55 g, copper-nickel alloy, grained edge
denomination "50 BANI" and a worker standing, with rolled up sleeves, holding a part on anvil with tongs (left hand), holding hammer in the right hand; industrial background (smoke flues, conveyor belt, silos)

Inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMÎNA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", year 1956 flanked on either sides by a pair of squares, Romanian coat of arms

Mintage 1955: 16.700.000 coins
Mintage 1956: 11.400.000 coins

These coins were struck at Bucharest Mint. It interesting to observe that ROMÎNA is written with "Î", a rare case of using diacritical signs on Romanian coins. The presence of the "hat on i" from "Î" is also an inconsequence, because POPULARA is written with A instead of Ă (and, of course, ROMÎNA instead of ROMÎNĂ).

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. They seem to be made from the same alloy as the 10 bani coins in the same series, which are declared to be cupronickel. It is obvious that these coins cannot be made from nickel, because this metal is ferromagnetic and the coins of this series are not attracted by the magnet.

The coins certain to have been made of nickel as the 50 and 100 lei 1936-1938 or the Canadian cents (e.g. 5 cents struck between 1955 and 1981 or 10 and 25 cents struck after 1968) are strongly attracted by the magnet. The Romanian cupronickel (75% copper and 25% nickel) coins, e.g. the 5, 10 and 20 bani 1905 and 1906 or the 1 and 2 lei 1924 are not attracted by the magnet.

The design is practically identical to the 20 lei of 1951, so we assume they have the same engraver, Haralamb Ionescu.

The pictures of 50 bani 1956 are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

15 bani 1960

Next coin

19.5 mm diameter, 2.88 g, 95% steel plated with 5% nickel, flat edge
denomination "15 BANI" inside laurel wreath

inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMINA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", year 1960 flanked on either sides by a square and Romanian coat of arms

Mintage: 126.900.000 coins

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) is mentioned that this coin was struck in 1960-1963 and 1965 and 1966, all coins bearing the same year 1960. Knowing that the Socialist Republic of Romania was proclaimed on August 21st 1965 by the Great National Assembly, who adopted a new constitution, striking coins with the People's Republic coat of arms in 1966 looks a bit weird. There is one explanation: the Socialist Republic coins with year 1966 were released into circulation starting from 1967.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

25 bani 1960

Next coin

22 mm diameter, 3.38 g, 95% steel plated with 5% nickel, flat edge denomination "25 BANI", a tractor on a field and wheat ears

Inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMINA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", year 1960 flanked on either sides by a square and Romanian coat of arms

Mintage: 87.600.000 coins

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because the nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) is mentioned that this coin was struck in 1960, 1962 and 1964 - 1966, all coins bearing the same year 1960. Knowing that the Socialist Republic of Romania was proclaimed on August 21st 1965 by the Great National Assembly, who adopted a new constitution, striking coins with the People's Republic coat of arms in 1966 looks a bit weird. There is one explanation: the Socialist Republic coins with year 1966 were released into circulation starting from 1967.

The tractor represented on the coin is a UTOS tractor manufactured at Braşov. Most likely it is a 45 horsepower UTOS-26, the first Romanian tractor with tires meant for ploughing, model manufactured between 1957 and 1962 at Uzina de Tractoare Oraşul Stalin (hence the name of the tractor), meaning Tractor Plant "Stalin City" . The city of Braşov was called Oraşul Stalin between 1950 and 1960. UTOS tractors were manufactured under MTZ license - Minsk Tractor Plant, USSR, today in Belarus.

The same tractor appears on the 25 bani coins from 1966 and 1982, although in the meantime the Braşov Tractor Plant had introduced into production more performant tractors, as U-650.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 bani 1963

Next coin

16 mm diameter, 1.7 g, 95% steel plated with 5% nickel, flat edge denomination "5 BANI" and year 1963

Romanian coat of arms

Mintage: 95.700.000 coins

In comparison with the 5 bani from 1966 and 1975, is a rare coin.

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) is mentioned thatthis coin was struck in 1963 - 1966, all coins bearing the same year 1960. Knowing that the Socialist Republic of Romania was proclaimed on August 21st 1965 by the Great National Assembly, who adopted a new constitution, striking coins with the People's Republic coat of arms in 1966 looks a bit weird. There is one explanation: the Socialist Republic' coins with year 1966 were released into circulation starting from 1967.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1963

Next coin

24 mm diameter, 5.06 g, 95% steel plated with 5% nickel, flat edge denomination "1 LEU", ploughing tractor and sun rising beyond the mountains, at left oil rigs

Inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", year 1963 flanked on either sides by a pair of squares, Romanian coat of arms

Mintage: 71.910.000 coins

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because the nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) is mentioned that this coin was struck in 1963 - 1965, all coins bearing the same year 1963.

The tractor represented on the coin is a UTOS tractor manufactured at Braşov. Most likely it is a 45 horsepower UTOS-26, the first Romanian tractor with tires meant for ploughing, model manufactured between 1957 and 1962 at Uzina de Tractoare Oraşul Stalin (hence the name of the tractor), meaning Tractor Plant "Stalin City" . The city of Braşov was called Oraşul Stalin between 1950 and 1960. UTOS tractors were manufactured under MTZ license - Minsk Tractor Plant, USSR, today in Belarus.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

3 lei 1963

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 5.86 g, 95% steel plated with 5% nickel, flat edge denomination "3 LEI" and oil refinery, at left two oil rigs

Inscription "REPUBLICA POPULARA ROMANA" meaning "ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC", year 1963 flanked on either sides by a pair of squares, Romanian coat of arms

Mintage: 18.436.000 coins

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because the nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004) is mentioned that this coin was struck in 1963 - 1965, all coins bearing the same year 1963.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 bani 1966

Next coin

16 mm diameter, 1.7 g, 95% steel plated with 5% nickel, flat edge denomination "5 BANI" and year 1966

Romanian coat of arms (new 1965 model)

In 1965 (on August 21st) Romania changed its official name from Romanian People's Republic to the Socialist Republic of Romania. The coat of arms changed accordingly, the name on the coat being switched from R. P. R. (standing for Republica Populară Română) to Republica Socialistă România.

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

All coins with year 1966 were released into circulation starting with year 1967. Officially, all communist coins introduced into circulation starting from the monetary reform of 1952 - so the 5 bani 1966 inclusive - mantained circulatory power until December 31st 1996. After this date all these coins were out of circulation, in conformity with the National Bank of Romania circular no. 33 from December 2nd 1996 (published in the Official Gazette no. 347/1996, 1st part).

In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004, actually written in 1969) is mentioned that this coin was struck in 1967 - 1968 also, all coins bearing the same year 1966. Until 1968 106.881.000 coins were struck. It is almost a certitude that these coins were struck after 1968 also.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

15 bani 1966

Next coin

19.5 mm diameter, 2.87 g, 95% steel plated with 5% nickel, flat edge
denomination "15 BANI" inside laurel wreath

Inscription "REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMANIA" meaning "SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA", year 1966 flanked on either sides by a square, Romanian coat of arms (1965 model)

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because the nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

All coins with year 1966 were released into circulation starting with year 1967. Officially, all communist coins introduced into circulation starting from the monetary reform of 1952 - so the 15 bani 1966 inclusive - mantained circulatory power until December 31st 1996. After this date all these coins were out of circulation, in conformity with the National Bank of Romania circular no. 33 from December 2nd 1996 (published in the Official Gazette no. 347/1996, 1st part).

In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004, actually written in 1969) is mentioned that this coin was struck in 1967 - 1968 also, all coins bearing the same year 1966. Until 1968 41.165.000 coins were struck. It is almost a certitude that these coins were struck after 1968 also.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

25 bani 1966

Next coin

22 mm diameter, 3.38 g, 95% steel plated with 5% nickel, flat edge denomination "15 BANI", a tractor on a field and wheat ears

Inscription "REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMANIA" meaning "SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA", year 1966 flanked on either sides by a square, Romanian coat of arms (1965 model)

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Romanian coins and banknotes, Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

All coins with year 1966 were released into circulation starting with year 1967. Officially, all communist coins introduced into circulation starting from the monetary reform of 1952 - so the 25 bani 1966 inclusive - mantained circulatory power until December 31st 1996. After this date all these coins were out of circulation, in conformity with the National Bank of Romania circular no. 33 from December 2nd 1996 (published in the Official Gazette no. 347/1996, 1st part).

In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004, actually written in 1969) is mentioned that this coin was struck in 1967 - 1968 also, all coins bearing the same year 1966. Until 1968 18.955.000 coins were struck. It is almost a certitude that these coins were struck after 1968 also.

The same tractor appears on the 25 bani coins from 1960 and 1982.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1966

Next coin

24 mm diameter, 5.06 g, nickel plated steel, flat edge denomination "1 LEU", ploughing tractor and sun rising beyond the mountains, at left oil rigs

Inscription "REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMANIA" meaning "SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA", year 1966 flanked on either sides by a pair of squares, Romanian coat of arms (1965 model)

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because the nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

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In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004, actually written in 1969) is mentioned that this coin was struck in 1967 - 1968 also, all coins bearing the same year 1966. Until 1968 75.437.000 coins were struck. It is almost a certitude that these coins were struck after 1968 also.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

3 lei 1966

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 5.86 g, 95% steel plated with 5% nickel, flat edge denomination "3 LEI" and oil refinery

inscription "REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMANIA" meaning "SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA", year 1966 flanked on either sides by a pair of squares, Romanian coat of arms

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The edge of the coin is adorned with two wavy lines, separated by a five ray star.

In the monograph **Monede şi bancnote româneşti** (Buzdugan, Luchian and Oprescu, 1977) these coins are presumed to be made from nickel. It seems to be in fact nickel plated steel. The rust on the edge of the heavy worn coins is a good argument in support of the steel core, because the nickel is very resistant to corrosion.

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In the book **Monetele României** (Coins of Romania, by Iliescu and Radovici, 2004, actually written in 1969) is mentioned that this coin was struck in 1967 - 1968 also, all coins bearing the same year 1966. Until 1968 8.477.000 coins were struck. It is almost a certitude that these coins were struck after 1968 also.

Below is presented a silver, proof-style, essay of 3 lei 1966, from the former C.C. colection. Only two such pieces are known.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 bani 1975

Next coin

16 mm diameter, 0.55 g, aluminum, flat edge denomination "5 BANI" and year 1975

Romanian coat of arms

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

15 bani 1975

Next coin

19.5 mm diameter, 0.95 g, aluminum, flat edge denomination "15 BANI" inside laurel wreath

The inscription "REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMANIA" meaning "SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA", year 1975 flanked on either sides by a square, Romanian coat of arms

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1978

Next coin

29 mm diameter, 2.8 g, aluminum, flat edge, outer pearl circle denomination "5 LEI" and symbols of energetic and petroleum industrial activities. Ornaments: wheat ears and toothed wheel.

inscription "REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMANIA" meaning "SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA", year 1978 flanked on either sides by a square, Romanian coat of arms

The edge of the coin is adorned with two wavy lines, separated by a rhombus. The small diagonal of the two rhombi is vertical.

The aluminum 5 lei coin of 1978 has several variants : type 1, the tripod having equal length legs (common type), type 2, the leg at the left side (of the picture) being shorter and type 3, this time the leg at the right side (of the picture) being the short one. The information reguarding the variants as well as the explanatory pictures were provided to **Romanian coins** by Mr Adrian Popovici.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

25 bani 1982

Next coin

22 mm diameter, 1.3 g, aluminum, flat edge denomination "25 BANI", a tractor and wheat ears

inscription "REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMANIA" meaning "SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA", year 1982 flanked on either sides by a square, Romanian coat of arms

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 lei 1983 - 2050 years since the creation of the centralized and independent Dacian state

Next coin

28 mm diameter?, 13.88 grams, silver 92.5%, proof quality
Obverse: denomination 50 LEI, year 1983, REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMÂNIA, Romanian coat of arms.

Reverse: fight scene between the Dacians and the Romans extracted from Trajan's Column in Rome inside linear circle / Along the edge: ·2050·ANI·DE·LA·CREAREA·STATULUI·DAC·CENTRALIZAT· SI·INDEPENDENT·1980· meaning 2050 YEARS SINCE THE CREATION OF THE CENTRALIZED AND INDEPENDENT DACIAN STATE

The coin belongs to a set of four - two silver and two golden coins - celebrating 2050 years since the political union of the Dacians into a single state, meant to be struck in 1983 on August 23rd, the Romanian national day of the time. The set was struck at the Franklin Mint in Philadelphia (United States of America). Trustful sources assume 6.500 pieces but others raise the number to 7.500. Anyway, it is very rare.

The other silver coin of the same series can be seen on the next page.

The silver pieces of the set have at the left (heraldic positioning) of the coat of arms an interesting ensign that looks somewhat like stylized F standing - maybe, therefore not sure - for the issuing Fraklin mint. So much information for now. Contact us if knowing more.

A very peculiar information was provided to us by the anonymous donor of the pictures. The 50 lei and 1000 lei coins from this series were only minted in 1983. They are a one year type. The 100 lei and 500 lei coins were minted in 1982 and 1983. In some cases the 1982 coins were sold together as a set instead of individually. Moreover, there is another interesting bit of information about this series. Besides the regular 1983 coins, the Franklin Mint issued a special limited edition set (also 1983) with a serial number engraved on the side of each of the four coin. The Franklin mint only made 1000 of these limited edition sets. We could easily deem that not less than ten different pieces must be acquired to have an exhaustive collection.

As you have previously read, three tiny Dacian flags are pictured on the reverse. As it is very likely not to know how a Dacian flag looks like, it is fit to point out that such an oriflame is comprised of a (natural, 3D shaped) wolf head to which a scaly, serpent or dragon tail is attached. A very original and, why not, gruesome ensign indeed.

These five homage coins are not the only having Dacia and the Dacians as subject. In 2001 Romania struck a large gold coin of 1000 lei to mark 1900 years since the first war between the Romans and the Dacians started (101 -102 A.D.) in the times of king Decebal. Click here to see it.

The 2050 years since the creation of the centralized and independent Dacian state were also celebrated through philatelic issues. Here is one picturing its leader, great king Burebista.

The beginning of the leadership of king Burebista (also spelled Buerebista, pictured above) is placed in 70 B.C. Historian Strabo wrote "Buerebista, the Geta, assuming leadership of his people, raised these enraged in endless battles men and straightened them through abstinence and sobriety and command obedience so that, in a few years, he established a great mastership and submitted to the Getae almost all neighbours; moreover, he posed great threat to the Romans, because he crossed recklessly to anyone Danube and preyed Thrace over to Macedonia and Illyria, and the Celts that mingled with Thracians and Illyrians he wasted altogether and the *Boi* that pursued king Critasiros as well as the Teuriscs he wiped from the face of the earth". (Geta and Getae was another name for Dacian and Dacians.)

Burebista was considered by his contemporaries as "the first and the greatest among the kings in Thrace". He mastered "all counties from thither and hither of Danube", as an inscription in Greek found at Dionysopolis (today Balcic, Bulgaria) informs us.

During his reign the Dacian state reached its climax, being feared even by the Romans. Burebista wage many wars, all victorious. His state stretched from the Black Sea and river Bug over to nowadays Bohemia and from Haemus - Balkan Mountains over to the Woody Carpathians.

In 44 B.C. Burebista was murdered and his state divided among the conspirators. There is an opinion according to which one of those was Koson, the one striking the famous gold coins bearing his name.

The silver coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

100 lei 1982, 1983 - 2050 years since the creation of the centralized and independent Dacian state

Next coin

36 mm diameter?, 27.75 grams, silver 92.5%, proof quality
Obverse: denomination 100 LEI, year 1982, REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMÂNIA, Romanian coat of arms.

Reverse: Dacian head, four dots(?) at left, seven at right, three Dacian flags at right heading left
Along the edge the inscription ·2050·ANI·DE·LA·CREAREA·STATULUI·DAC·CENTRALIZAT· SI·INDEPENDENT·1980· meaning 2050 YEARS SINCE THE CREATION OF THE CENTRALIZED AND INDEPENDENT DACIAN STATE

The coin belongs to a set of four - two silver and two golden coins - celebrating 2050 years since the political union of the Dacians into a single state, meant to be struck in 1983 on August 23rd, the Romanian national day of the time. The set was struck at the Franklin Mint in Philadelphia (United States of America). Trustful sources assume 6.500 pieces but others raise the number to 7.500. Anyway, it is very rare.

The other silver coin of the same series can be seen on the previous page.

The silver pieces of the set have at the left (heraldic positioning) of the coat of arms an interesting ensign that looks somewhat like stylized F standing - maybe, therefore not sure - for the issuing Fraklin mint. So much information for now. Contact us if knowing more.

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The silver coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

500 lei 1982, 1983 - 2050 years since the creation of the centralized and independent Dacian state

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 7.2 grams, gold 90%, copper 10%, proof quality, flat edge with three rhombi and three waving lines engraved
Obverse: denomination 500 LEI, year 1983, REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMÂNIA, Romanian coat of arms and the coin's title beneath it: 900/1000 FINE GOLD

Reverse: fight scene between the Dacians and the Romans extracted from Trajan's Column in Rome inside linear circle / Along the edge: ·2050·ANI·DE·LA·CREAREA·STATULUI·DAC·CENTRALIZAT· SI·INDEPENDENT·1980· meaning 2050 YEARS SINCE THE CREATION OF THE CENTRALIZED AND INDEPENDENT DACIAN STATE

The coin belongs to a set of four - two silver and two golden coins - celebrating 2050 years since the political union of the Dacians into a single state, meant to be struck in 1983 on August 23rd, the Romanian national day of the time. The set was struck at the Franklin Mint in Philadelphia (United States of America). Trustful sources assume 6.500 pieces but others raise the number to 7.500. Anyway, it is very rare.

The silver coins of the same series can be seen on the previous pages.

Another golden coin of the same series can be seen on the next page. For almost 40 years, since the **TRANSYLVANIA OF OURS** coin in 1944, Romania had not struck gold when this set appeared.

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The golden pieces of the set have underneath the coat of arms of the Socialist Republic of Romania, after the title 900/1000 FINE GOLD a special sign that resembles an **F** that could easily stand for the Franklin mint that issued them. A similar ensign exists also on the silver coins, only much larger and easier to perceive.

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The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1000 lei 1983 - 2050 years since the creation of the centralized and independent Dacian state

Next coin

27 mm diameter, 14.4 grams, gold 90%, copper 10%, proof quality
Obverse: denomination 1000 LEI, year 1983, REPUBLICA SOCIALISTA ROMÂNIA, Romanian coat of arms and the coin's title beneath it: 900/1000 FINE GOLD

Reverse: Dacian head, four dots(?) at left, seven at right, three Dacian flags at right heading left
Along the edge the inscription ·2050·ANI·DE·LA·CREAREA·STATULUI·DAC·CENTRALIZAT·SI·INDEPENDENT·1980· meaning 2050 YEARS SINCE THE CREATION OF THE CENTRALIZED AND INDEPENDENT DACIAN STATE

About the coin

The coin belongs to a set of four - two silver and two golden coins - celebrating 2050 years since the political union of the Dacians into a single state, meant to be struck in 1983 on August 23rd, the Romanian national day of the time. The set was struck at the Franklin Mint in Philadelphia (in Pennsylvania, United States of America). Trustful sources assume 6.500 pieces but others raise the number to 7.500. Anyway, it is very rare. It seems that the production expenses were supported by the American mint, Romania receiving the royalty rights and a small number of coins.

The silver coins of the same series can be seen on the previous pages.

Another golden coin of the same series can be seen on the previous page. For almost 40 years, since the **TRANSYLVANIA OF OURS** coin in 1944, Romania had not struck gold when this set appeared. The gold coins in the set have 7.2 respectively 14.4 grams of 90% gold, i.e. 100 respectively 200 grains of pure gold or 5/24 and 10/24 Troy ounce.

A very peculiar information was provided to us by the anonymous donor of the pictures. The 50 lei and 1000 lei coins from this series were only minted in 1983. They are a one year type. The 100 lei and 500 lei coins were minted in 1982 and 1983. In some cases the 1982 coins were sold together as a set instead of individually. Moreover, there is another interesting bit of information about this series. Besides the regular 1983 coins, the Franklin Mint issued a special limited edition set (also 1983) with a serial number engraved on the side of each of the four coin. The Franklin mint only made 1000 of these limited edition sets. We could easily deem that not less than ten different pieces must be acquired to have an exhaustive collection.

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About king Burebista

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The gold coin pictures above are present on **Romanian coins** through the kind permission of an anonymous donor.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

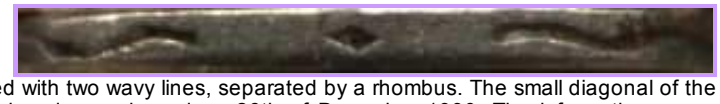
10 lei 1990, 1991, 1992

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 4.65 g, nickel plated steel, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: waving line
denomination "10 LEI" and year 1990, laurel branches at left and at right

ROMANIA, 22 DECEMBRIE 1989 and olive branch over Romanian flag

Issuing date: 26th of December 1990
Mintage: 30.000.000 coins in 1990
31.303.000 coins in 1991
60.000.000 coins in 1992



The edge of the coin is adorned with two wavy lines, separated by a rhombus. The small diagonal of the two rhombi is vertical.

Engraved by Vasile Gabor. This coin was issued on 26th of December 1990. The information concerning the mintage figures for the coins struck after 1989 is given after "Standard Catalog of World Coins", editor G. Cuhaj.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

20 lei 1991 - 1996

Next coin

**24 mm diameter, 5 g, brass plated steel,
flat edge
denomination "20 LEI" and year 1996, a wreath formed by six stylized oak leaves, a sector of 15 pearls above**

ROMANIA, ŞTEFAN CEL MARE meaning STEPHEN THE GREAT, two seven pearl sectors, bust of Stephen the Great and the Holy. Over the left shoulder lies C.D. standing for Constantin Dumitrescu, the engraver's name.

Issuing date: 9th of September 1991
Mintage: 43.200.000 coins in 1991
48.000.000 coins in 1992
33.800.000 coins in 1993
5.000.000 coins in 1994
8.000.000 coins in 1995
500.000 coins in 1996

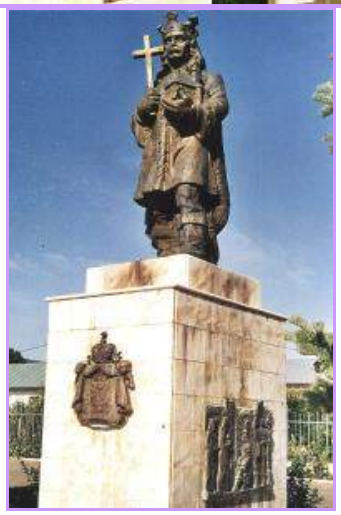
The coin struck in 1996 is rare, being struck only 500.000 pieces. In 1994 and 1995 were struck several milions and in the others tens of milions of coins. The 1991 coins were released into circulation on 9th of September that year. The information concerning the estimated mintage figures for the coins struck after 1989 is given after "Standard Catalog of World Coins", editor G. Cuhaj.

The great Moldavian voivod is also present on other Romanian coins: 500 lei 1941 - Liberation of the enthralled Moldavia, 5000 lei 2004 - Stephen the Great's Death Quincentenary, 1 leu, 5 and 100 lei 2007 - 550 years since the enthronement of Stephen the Great in Moldavia and 10 lei 2008 - Voroneţ Monastery.

Stephen the Great also appears on several coin issued by the Republic of Moldavia: 100 lei 2000 - 525 years from the battle of Vaslui and 100 lei 2004 - 500 years since his death.

The 20 lei 1992 and 1994 nickel plated steel essays above are present on Romanian coins through the kind permission of Mr. **sebii**.

Numerous statues honor today the memory of Stephen the Great. The statues of Iaşi, Piatra Neamţ, Suceava, Chişinău and Huşi can be seen in the picture below. In the last picture several statues are presented: the statue from the center of the city of Vaslui, the monument from Podu Înalt near Vaslui, the statue from Podu Înalt (detail) and the second statue of Stephen the Great from Iaşi, on the Copou hill.



The equestrian statue from Podu Înalt near Vaslui - work of Romanian artist Mircea Ştefanescu - is the biggest statue of Stephen, having almost 7 meters high and weighing 19 tons. In addition, the statue is placed on a 8 meters high socle. The socle is placed atop a hill near the road. In front of the monument burns a flame of eternal gratitude dedicated to the great hero of Romanians.

In the county of Iaşi several busts of Stephen the Great exist. Above are pictured the ones from the yard of Dobrovăţ Monastery, from Hîrlău and Cotnari.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 lei 1991 - 1996

Next coin

26 mm diameter, 5.9 g, brass plated steel, flat edge denomination "50 LEI", two laurel branches and year 1991

ROMANIA, two seven pearl sectors, ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA and his bust facing left. On the left shoulder lies V G standing for Vasile Gabor, the engraver's name.

Issuing date: 9th of September 1991
Mintage: 29.600.000 coins in 1991
70.800.000 coins in 1992
34.600.000 coins in 1993
30.000.000 coins in 1994
20.000.000 coins in 1995
4.900.000 coins in 1996

This coin was issued on 9th of September 1991.The obverse characters on the 50 lei coins struck in 1991 and 1992 are thick. From 1992 on the coins feature thin characters (the digits of 50 differ the most). In 1992 both thick and thin character coins were struck. The picture below displays a thin digit coin of 50 lei.

The information concerning the estimated mintage figures for the coins struck after 1989 is given after "Standard Catalog of World Coins", editor G. Cuhaj.

The effigy of prince Cuza appears on the 50 lei 1991 - 1996 circulation coins and on some anniversary coins: 500 lei from 2004, dedicated to the 140th anniversary of the Bucharest University, 500 lei aur 2009, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the Union between Moldavia and Walachia in 1859, 10 lei 2009 coin dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the Statistical Office and on the coin set of 1 leu, 5 lei and 100 lei 2009 dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the General Staff of the Romanian Army.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

100 lei 1991 - 1996

Next coin

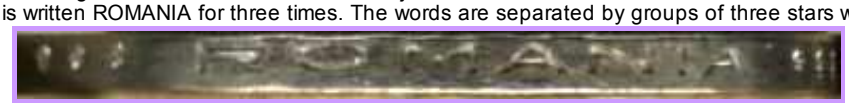
29 mm diameter, 8.75 g, nickel plated steel, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: ROMANIA (three times) denomination "100 LEI" and year 1991, at right an oak branch, at left a laurel branch. At the right rim lies C.D. standing for Constantin Dumitrescu, the engraver's name (obverse only).

inscription MIHAI VITEAZUL meaning MICHAEL THE BRAVE, his bust and ROMANIA. On the right shoulder lies V.G. standing for Vasile Gabor, the engraver's name (reverse only).

Issuing date: 1st of December 1991
Mintage: 12.600.000 coins in 1991
70.500.000 coins in 1992
78.000.000 coins in 1993
125.000.000 coins in 1994
30.000.000 coins in 1995
11.000.000 coins in 1996

This coin was issued on 1st of December 1991. The information concerning the estimated mintage figures for the coins struck after 1989 is given after "Standard Catalog of World Coins", editor G. Cuhaj.

On the edge is written ROMANIA for three times. The words are separated by groups of three stars with eight rays each.



The obverse characters on the 100 lei coins struck in 1991 and 1992 are thick. From 1992 on the coins feature thin characters (the digits of 100 differ the most). In 1992 both thick and thin character coins were struck. Moreover, the digits 9 used for representing the year also differ. There are straight ended and round ended 9's. The common 1992 coins (both thin and thick) feature straight ended 9's. There are known coins of 1992 with round ended 9's, belonging to the thick 100 digits category (extremely rare, since we found only five pieces out of about two hundred checked - we ourselves were surprised to recently learn of their existence).

coin featuring thin characters

coin of 1992 with round ended 9's - extremely rare

The pictures below show how the other years were spelled.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1992

Next coin

19 mm diameter, 2.5 g, copper plated steel, flat edge denomination "1 LEU", wheat ears and oak leaves

ROMANIA, the National Bank of Romania monogram, year · 1992 · and oak leaves. Under the monogram at right lies C.D. standing for Constantin Dumitrescu, the engraver's name.

Issuing date: 25th of November 1992
Mintage: 60.000.000 coins

This coin was issued on 25th of November 1992. The information concerning the estimated mintage figures for the coins struck after 1989 is given after "Standard Catalog of World Coins", editor G. Cuhaj.

Patterns of 1 leu coin with year 1992 are also known. Click here to see a nickel 1 leu 1992 pattern.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5 lei 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995

Next coin

21 mm diameter, 3.35 g, nickel plated steel, flat edge ROMANIA, denomination "5 · LEI ·", a pearl above 5 and three oak leaves at left and at right. Along the rim at four o'clock lies C.D. standing for Constantin Dumitrescu, the engraver's name.

year 1994 and Romanian coat of arms. Along the rim at five o'clock lies V.G. standing for Vasile Gabor, the engraver's name.

Issuing date: 21st of December 1992
Mintage: 30.000.000 coins in 1992
70.000.000 coins in 1993
10.000.000 coins in 1994
25.000.000 coins in 1995

This coin was issued on 21st of December 1992. The information concerning the estimated mintage figures for the coins struck after 1989 is given after "Standard Catalog of World Coins", editor G. Cuhaj.

The 5 lei coin was not struck in 1996; even if we have in our possession coins of 1 leu, 20, 50 and 100 lei struck then same year.

Below there are the pictures of a die essay for the 5 lei of 1993. The essay is struck in a copper-base alloy and was not cut, showing in an octagonal shape. On **Romanian Coins** you can also see several patterns for 5 lei from 1991.

The essay images above are present on **Romanian coins** as courtesy of Mr **Adrian Popovici**.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 leu 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996

Next coin

19 mm diameter, 2.5 g, copper plated steel, flat edge denomination "1 LEU", ROMANIA, wheat ears

year 1993 and Romanian coat of arms. Along the rim lies V.G. standing for Vasile Gabor, the engraver's name.

Issuing date: 28th of May 1993
Mintage: 61.000.000 coins in 1993
10.000.000 coins in 1994
2.000.000 coins in 1995
272.000 coins in 1996

This coin was issued on 28th of May 1993.

The 1 leu coin from 1996 is rarer than the others, only 272.000 pieces having been struck, while the mintages of the previous years raised to millions each. The information concerning the estimated mintage figures for the coins struck after 1989 is given after "Standard Catalog of World Coins", editor G. Cuhaj.

Patterns of 1 leu coin with year 1992 are also known. Click here to see a nickel 1 leu 1992 pattern.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

10 lei 1993, 1994, 1995

Next coin

23 mm diameter, 4.65 g, nickel plated steel, flat edge
ROMANIA and denomination "10 LEI" inside a laurel wreath

year 1994 and Romanian coat of arms. Along the rim lies V.G. standing for Vasile Gabor, the engraver's name.

Issuing date: 28th of May 1993
Mintage: 6.000.000 coins in 1993
7.000.000 coins in 1994
30.000.000 coins in 1995

This coin was issued on 28th of May 1993. The information concerning the estimated mintage figures for the coins struck after 1989 is given after "Standard Catalog of World Coins", editor G. Cuhaj. The 10 lei coin was maybe struck in 1996 too, but only in 5.000 pieces (information that needs to be reconfirmed).

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

500 lei 1999, 2000

Next coin

25 mm diameter, 3.7 g, AlMg3, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: ROMANIA (three times) denomination "500 LEI", ROMANIA, laurel wreath

year 2000, Romanian coat of arms, laurel branches. At lower right lies V.G. standing for Vasile Gabor, the engraver's name.

This coin was issued on 15th of March 1999.

One rhombus occurs after each of the three times word ROMANIA is engraved (incuse) on the edge. The small diagonal of the rhombi is vertical.

A pattern for 500 lei, struck in 1998, is also presented on Romanian coins. Click here to see it.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

500 lei 1999 Eclipse

Next coin

25 mm diameter, 3.7 g, AlMg3, flat edge
Incuse on the edge: ROMANIA (three times)
Obverse: ROMANIA written above a field of 7 horizontal lines, denomination "500 LEI", year 1999, Romanian coat of arms, the Moon covering the Sun. The letter O from ROMANIA is placed over a disk representing the maximum phase of the eclipse, several rays of light being visible.

Reverse: ECLIPSA TOTALA DE SOARE 11 AUGUST 1999 meaning TOTAL SUN ECLIPSE, the Moon over the Sun and two shade cones representing the beginning end the end of the eclipse. The shade cone on the left has the shape of letter E, so on the coin appears E'99, the symbol of the eclipse.

Mintage: 4.000.000 coins
+ 3.000 like proof

This is the only homage, anniversary or "special" Romanian coin to go into circulation up to the present date (September 2010) since 1906. This coin was issued to celebrate the total solar eclipse that took place on August 11th 1999. The rare event was popularized in 1999, especially because the total eclipse area covered a large region of Muntenia and Banat. In Moldavia the eclipse of 1999 was only partial.

4.000.000 such coins were struck, plus 3.000 more in like proof quality for numismatists. The pictures of the like proof coin above appears on the site thanks to the kind permission of Mr **Cristian Ciuplea.**

Unfortunately, the National Bank of Romania did not issue (up until now, in 2010) any other commemorative coins for circulation. In our opinion, the circulation eclipse coins were well reveived by the general public as well as by the collectors and the "eclipse experiment" was a success - such numismatic issues should have been continued.

A rhombus separates the three words ROMANIA incused on the edge. The small diagonal of the rhombi is vertical. The edge is similar with the edge of the regular 500 lei coin (featured on the previous page).

Click here to see to medals struck for the solar eclipse frenzy that caught Romania in 1999 (the eclipse taking place on August 11th).

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1000 lei 2000 - 2004

Next coin

22 mm diameter, 2 g, AlMg3, grained edge
denomination "1000 LEI", ROMANIA, year 2000 and Romanian coat of arms
inscription CONSTANTIN BRANCOVEANU, 1688-1714 and voivod bust

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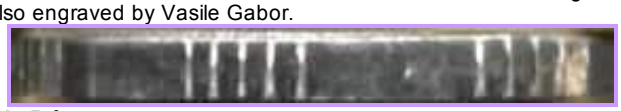
This coin was issued on 23rd of October 2000.

On the edge there are eight groups of five teeth each. This is the first Romanian coin featuring discontinuous graining. Although not stated so by any marks on either side, this coin was also engraved by Vasile Gabor.



About the canonization of Constantin Brîncoveanu

The coin portrays the Walachian voivod (prince) Constantin Brîncoveanu. Besides the crown of Walachia, he was crowned with the holy wreath of the martyrs, dying the violent death of beheading to which he was subjected by the Turks. He refused to abjure the Christian faith and convert to Islam. Together with him have died the same death his sons Constantin, Ştefan, Radu and Matei and also the clucer (nobleman charged with prince's court supplies) Ianache Văcărescu, one of the voivod's counsellors. They are among the last of the orthodox martyrs and as such the Romanian Orthodox Church canonized all Brîncoveanu Saints on 21st of July 1992. They are celebrated on 16th of August.

About the coins-medals struck by Constantin Brîncoveanu

We quote below three paragraphs from the **Chronicle of the Romanians** by the Romanian historian **Gheorghe Şincai**. The text belongs to the chapter dedicated to the year 1713 and refers directly to the gold coins struck by voivod Brîncoveanu.

And Delchiaro writes "[...] the indictments that were sent to the Turkish Porte on prince Brâncovan were these [...] 10. That he had golden coins struck in Transylvania, of 2 and also of several galbeni [galben means, besides color yellow, a golden coin in Romanian], even of 10 galbeni, of which one is sent to the Sultan, to a better ascertaining, and the other coins will be found in his private treasury, with many gemstones, that cannot be priced, when Brâncovan will be overthrown.

Why for did Brâncovan allow these coins to be made, many people have many explanations, but altogether they say that in the day of Saint Mary's Dormition of year 1714, when he would have entered his 60th year of his age and the 26th of his rule, he wished to give a very wonderful feast to all his boyars and at the end of the feast he wanted to allot these coins to every boyar, after his rank or official position held; but wow and wretched! in that very day his four sons and him were cut down."

About those gold coins of, so does Samoil Chéleşeri write: "For the family remembrance galbeni of ten and five had recently been struck by the prince of Walachia, that on one side had his countenance, after the custom of the Romanians, embellished with an expensive mitre on the head and with mantle hanging of the shoulders, and around with this inscription: "Constantinus Besaraba de Brâncovan", on the other side had the coat of arms or the blazon of Walachia used by the princes for the political affairs, because in the Church affairs they use a seal, with Saints Constantine and Helena engraved, holding the cross in the hands. Under the princely mitre, in the shield there was a raven with spread wings, holding an regular cross with the beak and standing on a part of a tree branch and above at one side the sun, at the other side the moon, with the inscription "D.G. Vaivoda et Princeps Valachiae Transalpinae" around. This coin unfortunate brought doom on Brancovanian family, after the prince fell with his in the hands of the Turks."

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

5000 lei 2001 - 2004

Next coin

24 mm diameter of the circumscribed circle, 2.5 g, AlMg3, flat edge denomination "5000 LEI", ROMANIA dodecagonal coin

Romanian coat of arms, stylized Romanian popular decoration, year 2002 dodecagonal coin

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This coin was issued on 14th of December 2001.

As you notice, two hyphens guard the year. The right hyphen (2002, 2003 and 2004 coins only) has the initials V G incuse, standing for Vasile Gabor, the engraver's name. These letters are barely legible.

- 2001 -

- 2002 -VG

- 2003 -VG

- 2004 - VG

Yet very uglily and dully designed, it is still the first polygonal Romanian coin to enter circulation. For sure this is the worst Romanian coin ever (closely seconded by the 500 lei of the same series).

An interesting striking flaw - an iceberg! - is presented on the above picture. The flaw has been reported on several 5000 lei pieces of 2004, so it is not an isolated case but a repetive one. We have also found variants of the flaw that barely manifest it through a few isolated peaks - there is where the flaw must have commenced.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

1 ban, 5, 10 and 50 bani 2005 - 2010

Next coin

denomination

ROMANIA, Romanian coat of arms, year 2005, two clusters of four-ray stars

face value	diameter	width	mass	metal	edge
1 ban	16.75	1.6	2.4	brass plated steel	flat
5 bani	18.25	1.6	2.78	copper plated steel	grained, with 102 teeth
10 bani	20.5	1.8	4	nickel plated steel	three groups of 20 teeth each
50 bani	23.75	1.9	6.1	copper 80%, zinc 15%, nickel 5% (brass)	flat, with the inscription *ROMANIA*★ (two times)

About the new coins

The 2005 coin series appeared as result of the new leu introduction, following the decision of the National Bank to denominalize the leu. The operation's name was quickly switched to denomination, just as if intending to cover the true nature of the word. Denominalization is a financial term of French origin, apparently not existing in English. Accordingly to Romanian dictionaries, its meaning is to reduce the nominal value of currency tokens, transformation operated in periods of accentuated currency depreciation whereas to denominate means to give a name to something and has Italian origin.

A somewhat similar term is that of monetary stabilization, meaning an assembly of measures undertaken by the state to strengthen national currency. The stabilization is performed after a previous inflation and presumes cease of excedentary money issuing and termination of surplus paper money in circulation. Another term is that of monetary reform, signifying the replacement of the currency system or modification of important parts of it. In 1947 Romania had a stabilization and in 1952 monetary reform. The differences between stabilization, reform and denominalization are not very clear to us. All these operations ended in reducing the calculation values in a ratio of 20.000:1 (1947), 20:1 (1952) and now in 2005 of 10.000:1. In 1947 every citizen was allowed to exchange a certain,

fixed amount of money that was proffesion dependent.

The first monetary reform was performed in Romania in 1867, when the **leu** with its subdivision **ban** was introduced.

1 new leu is equivalent to 10.000 old lei, so the 1 ban now issued is equivalent to 100 old lei, coin that did not circulate in Romania the last few years due to its minute value (about one third of an eurocent). The new coins entered circulation on the 1st of July 2005. The old coins and banknotes will circulate over to December 31st 2006, and afterwards they will still be able to be exchaged into new currency inside National Bank branches. The campaign to popularize the new currency started long before. Since March 1st 2005 all prices have been compulsorily posted in both old and new values.

The design of the coins is very dull and blunt, overcoming in platitude and lack of inspiration all Romanian coins struck to present, as a natural continuation of the Romanian coinage involution (even 50 bani of 1947 and 1, 3 and 5 bani of 1952 look better). It is hard to believe that Romania will ever issue coins less atractive that these comprised by the 2005 series.

We published these coins on the 3rd of June 2005, two days after the coin set was put on sale by BNR (National Bank of Romania). The obverse and reverse are disposed in medal fashion for this first set. The adorning elements on the edge of 10 and 50 bani do not have a fix starting position related to the faces. On 50 bani the edge inscription is laid either on the obverse or the reverse. This observation is true for all the incuse inscriptions or ornaments on the edge of the Romanian coins from the beginnings up to present (2010).

The introduction of the new leu was popularized even with the help of a philatelic issue. We present below 2 stamps of the series issued therefor.

About the new coins in the 2005 proof mint set

On August 1st 2005 a new mint set was put on sale. It contains, beside the old 1 leu, 100, 500, 1000 and 5000 lei coins, the new four coins. All the set pieces are minted at proof quality. A 5 bani coin is pictured below, as an example. The funny thing is that, as you can see, the coins of the two circulation sets issued in 2005 differ!

"Monedă" or "monetă"?

The new coins were mostly introduced to circulation in big stores, where the coins arrived in 50 piece clusters, as it can be seen in the image above. It is interesting to observe that on the wrapping the rare word form **monete** (monetă in singular) meaning coins is inscribed and not **monede** (monedă in singular) that is actually in use. The nowadays dictionaries (MDE = Small Encyclopaedic Dictionary, DOOM = Orthographical, Orthoepical and Morphological Dictionary, DLRC = Dictionary of the Contemporary Literary Romanian Language, DEX = Explicative Dictionary of the Romanian Language) notes commonly the form monedă, monede, sometimes mentioning the variant monetă. We quote an article from 1939 written by the eminent philologist Alexandru Graur: „Monedă comes to us, as in all Balkan languages, from Greek: *moneda*, and there, from the Venetian dialect (also *moneda*). In Italy the word is of Latin origin: *moneta*. This is the epithet of goddess *Juno* ("the advisor", from the Latin verb *moneo* "to advise"). As coins were struck in the temple of goddess Juno Moneta, the name passed to the actual coins." It can also be mentioned that the Romanian form "monetă" is not necessarily originated in Italian, as in Russian the coin is also named moneta. The Romanian got in contact with Russian just recently, but it must be mentioned that moneda is also a neologism in Romanian.

Besides the form "monete" for plural, that is certainly correct, there also exists the form "monezi", probably constructed by analogy with other similar plurals of words, such as grămadă, grămezi (heap, heaps) or livadă, livezi (orchard, orchards). The form monezi, although not included in dictionaries, returns about 30-40% of the results provided by Google in searches for monede and monezi, and also occupies about half of plural occurences of the word in the common speaking, so it is also a very spread form.

A striking error

The coin below was found in circulation by Mr **Gabriel Niculescu**. He sent us the picture. Thanks!

Parallel lines striking error
The coin below was also found in circulation. Convenient light was chosen for photo. Paralel lines are present on both faces, most obvious being on the obverse.

We are grateful to Mr **Adrian Popovici** that sent us pictures of these coins.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 bani 2010 - Centennial Anniversary of the First Flight of Aurel Vlaicu's Plane

Next coin

23.75 mm diameter, 6.1 g, brass with 80% copper, 15% zinc, 5% nickel, flat edge, with inscription *ROMANIA* ★ (two times)
Obverse: year 2010, face value "50 BANI", coat of arms of Romania, ROMANIA, horizontal lines with the face value 50 with large digits

Reverse: vertical lines, inscription AUREL VLAICU and year 1910 (of the first flight with VLAICU I airplane) above, effigy of Aurel Vlaicu, an image of his airplane, 1882 and 1913, years of inventor's life

Issuing date: 25th of October 2010
Mintage: ?

In 2010 were also struck 5000 proof coins, for collectors. On the page of the proof coin you can found some information about Aurel Vlaicu and his airplane.
Aurel Vlaicu and Vlaicu I airplane also appear on the 50 lei banknote issued starting from 2005.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 bani 2011 - 625 Years since the Enthronement of Mircea the Old in Walachia

Previous coin

23.75 mm diameter, 6.1 g, brass with 80% copper, 15% zinc, 5% nickel, flat edge, with inscription *ROMANIA*★ (two times)
Obverse: ROMANIA, year 2011, coat of arms of Romania, face value "50 BANI", a partially visible circle hatched with oblique lines that converge to the lower-left, above face value 50 with large digits, in the space inside the zero an image of the church at Cozia Monastery

Reverse: an image of Mircea cel Bătrîn inside an oval medallion, semicircular inscription "MIRCEA CEL BATRAN 1386-1418" meaning "MIRCEA THE OLD", two arcs made from small rectangles, resembling the adorning bands made from colored bricks on the outer walls of the church at Cozia Monastery

Issuing date: 12th of September 2011
Mintage: 5.000.000 coins

Mircea cel Bătrîn appears on a silver 10 lei anniversary coin from Christian Feudal Art Monuments series. The Walachian voivod is represented on several silver ducats struck somewhere during his long reign.

The church of Cozia Monastery is represented also on the 10 lei 2010 silver coin dedicated to the poet Grigore Alexandrescu.

The issue has also a proof variant for numismatists, with the face value of 200 lei.

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Romanian coins

Previous coin

50 bani 2012 - 500 Years since the Enthronement of Neagoe Basarab in Walachia

Next coin

23.75 mm diameter, 6.1 g, brass with 80% copper, 15% zinc, 5% nickel, flat edge, with inscription *ROMANIA* ★ (two times)
Obverse: ROMANIA, face value "50 BANI", coat of arms of Romania, year 2012, on background a view of the church of Curtea de Argeş monastery and some rays

Reverse: bust of voivod Neagoe Basarab, a side view of the church of Curtea de Argeş monastery, year 1512 and NEAGOE BASARAB, circular inscription BISERICA MANASTIRII CURTEA DE ARGES meaning "CHURCH OF THE CURTEA DE ARGEŞ MONASTERY"

Issuing date: 25th of June 2012
Mintage: 1.000.000 coins

About Neagoe Basarab, Ruler of Walachia between 1512 and 1521

Neagoe ascended to power in early 1512, after the defeat suffered by Vlad the Younger at Văcăreşti (previous ruler of Walachia, 1510-1512) before the troops of the Craioveşti boyars (reinforced with Ottoman troops sent by Mehmet, bey of Nicopolis). Following the defeat, the former ruler was beheaded. Although being the son of boyar Pîrvu Craiovescu, Neagoe took the name Basarab, thus claiming to be descendant of the great Basarab the Founder.

The prince has maintained generally good relations with his neighbors. He also went to Istanbul, and accepted an increased tribute. He concluded a treaty with Hungary and gained for himself the Geoagiu estate in Transylvania.

Neagoe had three boys and three girls. Teodosie ruled Walachia for a few months after his father's death. One of the girls, Ruxandra, was married with the brave voivod Radu of Afumaţi. Stana was married with Ştefăniţă, ruler of Moldavia (1517-1527).

During Neagoe Basarab's reign a Slavic Gospel was printed, the third book ever printed in Walachia. The voivod is the author of a book written in Old Slavic named "Neagoe Basarab's Teachings to his Son Theodosie". The book contains, beside some texts taken from the Bible and from various Byzantine and Slavic works, several original chapters [1]. The prince founded, repaired and endowed with precious ritual objects and money a lot of other places of worship, both in Walachia and at Mount Athos, in Jerusalem and at Mount Sinai [2]. Neagoe also erected the current church of the monastery of Snagov.

In 2008, on October 26th, Neagoe was sanctified by the Romanian Orthodox Church. This date was set for the feast day of the Saint voivod Neagoe Basarab.

About the Church of Curtea de Argeş

Neagoe is the founder of the beautiful church of Curtea de Arges, the church being also represented on the coin. This construction is related to name master Manole - who entered into legend as character of the folk poem "Argeş Monastery". The church was consecrated in 1517, with a particular magnificence and with a choise participation - the patriarch of Constantinople, several Orthodox metropolitans, bishops and abbots. The lavish ornamentation and the twisted spires give a very special aspect of this masterpiece of the Walachian medieval architecture.

Neagoe Basarab was buried in the church of Curtea de Argeş. Between 1875 and 1886 the church was restored by the French architect Lecomte de Noüy, being prepared to become the burial place of the kings of Romania. Here rest Carol I, Ferdinand and Queen Maria, Carol II.

The image of Neagoe Basarab on the coin reproduces the representation of the Walachian ruler on the votive painting of the church of Curtea de Argeş (where also appear his six children and lady Elena Despina). The crown worn by lady Elena - Despina (Neagoe's wife and daughter of Serbian despot Jovan Brancovici), as it appears in the votive painting of the church of Curtea de Argeş, was used as inspiration source for the crown worn by Queen Marie (Maria) in 1922 at the coronation of Alba Iulia.

The issue has also a proof variant for numismatists, with the face value of 100 lei, struck in gold.

References

1. Ciobanu Şt., Istoria literaturii române vechi. Editura Hyperion, Chişinău, 1992.
2. Giurescu Ct., Giurescu D., Istoria românilor. Vol 2. De la mijlocul secolului al XIV-lea pînă la începutul secolului al XVII-lea. Editura Ştiinţifică şi Enciclopedică, Bucureşti, 1976.

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Monede şi medalii

Denumirea emisiunii monetare sau medalistice	Data emisiunii	Avers	Revers
150 de ani de la naşterea regelui Ferdinand I - monedă din argint	15.07.2015		
150 de ani de la naşterea regelui Ferdinand I - set de trei monede	15.07.2015		
115 ani de la naşterea Irinei Constantziu – Vlassopol	08.06.2015		
145 de ani de la înfiinţarea Monetăriei Statului	19.05.2015		
70 de ani de la încheierea celui de-al Doilea Război Mondial	29.04.2015		
135 de ani de la înfiinţarea Băncii Naţionale a României	16.04.2015		

25 de ani de la înfiinţarea Serviciului Român de Informaţii	23.03.2015		
130 de ani de la naşterea lui Iuliu Hossu	02.03.2015		
Set de trei monede dedicat aniversării a 175 de ani de la naşterea lui Titu Maiorescu	16.02.2015		
Set de trei monede dedicate aniversării a 150 de ani de la înfiinţarea CEC Bank	15.12.2014		
150 de ani de la înfiinţarea CEC Bank	15.12.2014		

Istoria aurului – Monede din aur bătute la Histria	08.12.2014		
130 de ani de la prima lege de construire a unei Catedrale Naționale	21.11.2014		
100 de ani de la naşterea lui Eugen Drăguțescu	10.11.2014		
150 de ani de învățământ de arhitectură în România	29.09.2014		
150 de ani de la naşterea lui Ion I. C. Brătianu - monedă din argint	01.09.2014		
Set de trei monede dedicate aniversării a 150 de ani de la naşterea lui Ion I. C. Brătianu	01.09.2014	 	

150 de ani de la naşterea Elenei Văcărescu	04.08.2014		
Anul comemorativ al Sfinţilor Martiri Brâncoveni - Biserica Sfântul Gheorghe Nou din Bucureşti	30.06.2014		
150 de ani de la înfiinţarea Universităţii din Bucureşti - monedă din argint	23.06.2014		
150 de ani de la înfiinţarea Universităţii din Bucureşti - set de trei monede	23.06.2014		
150 de ani de la înfiinţarea Senatului României - monedă din argint	02.06.2014		

Set de trei monede dedicate aniversării a 150 de ani de la înfiinţarea Senatului României	02.06.2014		
125 de ani de la înfiinţarea Şcolii Superioare de Război	19.05.2014		
650 de ani de la începutul domniei lui Vladislav I Vlaicu	28.04.2014		
Set de trei monede dedicat aniversării a 175 de ani de la naşterea regelui Carol I	14.04.2014		
175 de ani de la naşterea regelui Carol I - monedă din argint	14.04.2014		

Set de trei monede dedicate aniversării a 150 de ani de la înfiinţarea Curţii de Conturi a României	10.03.2014		
150 de ani de la înfiinţarea Curţii de Conturi a României - monedă din argint	10.03.2014		
100 de ani de la înfiinţarea Comitetului Olimpic Român	10.02.2014		
Istoria aurului - Tetraevangheliarul de la Hurezi	16.12.2013		
Set de două monede din argint dedicat aniversării a 150 de ani de la naşterea doctorilor Gheorghe Marinescu şi Ioan Cantacuzino	25.11.2013		

150 de ani de la constituirea Societăţii literare „Junimea”	21.10.2013		
100 de ani de la iniţierea primului Congres al economiştilor din România	30.09.2013		
Set de trei monede dedicat aniversării a 100 de ani de la naşterea Mariei Tănase	14.08.2013		
100 de ani de la naşterea Mariei Tănase - monedă din argint	14.08.2013		
100 de ani de la naşterea Mariei Tănase - monedă din tombac cuprat	14.08.2013		
100 de ani de la primul meci oficial de rugby din România	05.08.2013		
175 de ani de la naşterea lui Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu	15.07.2013		

Set de trei monede dedicat aniversării a 140 de ani de telecomunicaţii militare	01.07.2013	 	
150 de ani de la punerea pietrei de temelie a Manufacturii de Arme din cadrul Arsenalului Armatei	25.06.2013		
140 de ani de la naşterea Luciei Sturdza-Bulandra	10.06.2013		
Anul omagial al Sfinţilor Împăraţi Constantin şi Elena	20.05.2013		
175 de ani de la naşterea lui Nicolae Grigorescu	29.04.2013		
100 de ani de la înfiinţarea, la Bucureşti, a Academiei de Înalte Studii Comerciale şi Industriale (astăzi Academia de Studii Economice) - monedă din argint	25.03.2013		

100 de ani de la înfiinţarea, la Bucureşti, a Academiei de Înalte Studii Comerciale şi Industriale (astăzi Academia de Studii Economice) - monedă din tombac cuprat	25.03.2013		
Set de trei monede dedicat aniversării a 100 de ani de la înfiinţarea, la Bucureşti, a Academiei de Înalte Studii Comerciale şi Industriale (astăzi Academia de Studii Economice)	25.03.2013	 	
300 de ani de la începerea construcţiei Mănăstirii Antim din Bucureşti	04.03.2013		
1900 de ani de la inaugurarea Columnei lui Traian	25.02.2013		
350 de ani de la înălţarea bisericii de lemn Sfinţii Arhangheli din Rogoz, Maramureş	11.02.2013		
Istoria aurului – Patera din Tezaurul de la Pietroasa	17.12.2012		

100 de ani de la naşterea lui George Emil Palade	19.11.2012		
100 de ani de la naşterea cardinalului Alexandru Todea	29.10.2012		
200 de ani de la naşterea lui George Barițiu	10.09.2012		
90 de ani de la naşterea lui Marin Preda	10.08.2012		
125 de ani de la naşterea Elenei Caragiani-Stoinescu	23.07.2012		
100 de ani de la naşterea lui Nicolae Steinhardt	09.07.2012		
500 de ani de la urcarea pe tronul Ţării Româneşti a Sfântului Voievod Neagoe Basarab şi de la începerea construirii bisericii Mănăstirii Curtea de Argeş	25.06.2012		
150 de ani de la unificarea instituţiilor politice centrale ale României moderne - deschiderea primului parlament şi constituirea primului guvern	28.05.2012		

100 de ani de la naşterea lui Sergiu Celibidache	09.05.2012		
150 de ani de la înfiinţarea Ministerului Afacerilor Externe	23.04.2012		
Centenarul primei legi moderne a paşapoartelor româneşti	19.03.2012		
200 de ani de la naşterea lui Carol Popp de Szathmári	27.02.2012		
10 ani de la introducerea bancnotelor şi monedelor euro	27.01.2012		
Istoria aurului – Crucea de la Garvăn – Dinogetia	22.12.2011		
190 de ani de la Revoluţia din 1821 condusă de Tudor Vladimirescu	12.12.2011		
150 de ani de la înfiinţarea primelor instituţii militare ale României moderne	28.11.2011		

150 de ani de la înfiinţarea Societăţii ASTRA din Sibiu	14.11.2011		
375 de ani de la naşterea lui Nicolae Milescu	31.10.2011		
130 de ani de la naşterea lui George Bacovia	10.10.2011		
450 de ani de la tipărirea Evangheliei în limba română	26.09.2011		
625 de ani de la urcarea pe tron a domnitorului Mircea cel Bătrân	12.09.2011		
125 de ani de la naşterea lui Nicolae Tonitza	22.08.2011		
140 de ani de la naşterea lui Nicolae Iorga	25.07.2011		
150 de ani de la stabilirea stemei Principatelor Unite Moldova şi Ţara Românească	27.06.2011		

Anul Internaţional al Chimiei	06.06.2011		
130 de ani de la proclamarea Regatului României	10.05.2011		
140 de ani de la înfiinţarea Monetăriei Statului	14.03.2011		
Monumente de artă medievală creştină - set de 3 monede din argint	28.02.2011		
Istoria aurului - Paftaua de la Curtea de Argeş	07.02.2011		
90 de ani de la înfiinţarea Institutului Naţional de Medicină Aeronautică şi Spaţială „General doctor aviator Victor Anastasiu”	17.01.2011		

Palatele Bucureştiului - set de 3 monede din argint	20.12.2010	
125 de ani de la naşterea scriitorului Liviu Rebreanu	10.12.2010	
Monedă din argint dedicată poetului Grigore Alexandrescu	29.11.2010	
135 de ani de la naşterea Reginei Maria	15.11.2010	
100 de ani de la primul zbor românesc efectuat de Aurel Vlaicu, cu un aparat de construcţie proprie - monedă pentru colecţionare	25.10.2010	
100 de ani de la construirea primului avion cu reacţie de către Henri Coandă	11.10.2010	
100 de ani de la naşterea actorului Ştefan Ciobotăraşu	16.08.2010	

200 de ani de la naşterea lui August Treboniu Laurian	06.08.2010		
150 de ani de la naşterea sopranei Hariclea Darclée	30.07.2010		
Set de cinci monede din argint, dedicate patriarhilor Bisericii Ortodoxe Române	19.07.2010		
125 de ani de la recunoaşterea autocefaliei Bisericii Ortodoxe Române şi 85 de ani de la înfiinţarea Patriarhiei Române	14.06.2010		
Eugeniu Carada – ctitorul Băncii Naţionale a României	30.04.2010		

130 de ani de la înfiinţarea Băncii Naţionale a României	30.04.2010		
160 de ani de la naşterea lui Mihai Eminescu	12.04.2010		
Istoria aurului - Tezaurul gepidic de la Someşeni, Cluj	10.02.2010		
190 de ani de la naşterea lui Nicolae Bălcescu	30.12.2009		

300 de ani de la naşterea episcopului Petru Pavel Aron	16.12.2009		
Timişoara - primul oraş european iluminat electric	25.11.2009		
150 de ani de la înfiinţarea Statului Major General al Armatei Române	12.11.2009		
1900 de ani de la inaugurarea monumentului de la Adamclisi	21.10.2009		
100 de ani de la inaugurarea portului Constanţa	07.10.2009		
Emisiune numismatică dedicată domnitorului Vlad Ţepeş cu ocazia aniversării a 550 de ani de la prima atestare documentară a oraşului	16.09.2009		

Bucureşti			
140 de ani de la inaugurarea primei linii de cale ferată din România: Bucureşti - Giurgiu	05.08.2009		
150 de ani de la înfiinţarea de către domnitorul Alexandru Ioan Cuza a Oficiului de Statistică	15.07.2009		
650 de ani de la întemeierea Mitropoliei Ţării Româneşti	24.06.2009		
155 de ani de la naşterea poetului Alexandru Macedonski	20.05.2009		
170 de ani de la naşterea regelui Carol I	15.04.2009		
150 de ani de la Unirea Principatelor Române	23.01.2009		
10 ani de la înfiinţarea Uniunii Economice şi Monetare Europene şi lansarea			

monedei unice - Euro	16.01.2009		
Istoria aurului - Tezaurul de la Hinova	24.12.2008		
Replică după moneda de aur de 20 lei - 1922 realizată cu prilejul aniversării a 90 de ani de la Marea Unire de la 1 Decembrie 1918	28.11.2008		
Aniversarea a 90 de ani de la Marea Unire de la 1 Decembrie 1918	28.11.2008		
80 de ani de la înfiinţarea Societăţii Române de Radiodifuziune	27.10.2008		
Monumente de artă medievală creştină	20.10.2008	 	

200 ani de la naşterea lui Simion Bărnuţiu	11.08.2008		
500 de ani de la realizarea primelor tipărituri de pe teritoriul românesc, la Mănăstirea Dealu	07.07.2008		
100 de ani de la naşterea economistului Costin Kiriţescu	06.06.2008		
150 de ani de la emiterea primelor mărci poştale româneşti, numite ,,Cap de Bour"	05.05.2008		
Emisiune numismatică dedicată Summitului NATO de la Bucureşti, organizat în perioada 2 - 4 aprilie 2008	28.03.2008	 	
Set numismatic dedicat poetului latin Publius Ovidius Naso, de la a cărui exilare la Tomis s-au împlinit, în anul 2008, două milenii	03.03.2008		

Istoria aurului - Rhytonul de la Poroina	28.12.2007		
Monedă dedicată Mănăstirii Snagov	03.12.2007		
90 de ani de la victoriile armatei române de la Mărăşti, Mărăşeşti şi Oituz	29.10.2007		
Emisiune medalistică dedicată aniversării a 125 de ani de la naşterea diplomatului Nicolae Titulescu	17.09.2007		
150 de ani de industrie petrolieră românească	03.09.2007		

Set numismatic dedicat aniversării a 130 de ani de la proclamarea Independenţei României	20.08.2007		
Set numismatic dedicat lui Ştefan cel Mare	02.07.2007		
Set numismatic dedicat lui Dimitrie Cantemir	18.06.2007		

Muzeul Cinegetic de la Posada	01.06.2007		
50 de ani de la semnarea Tratatului de la Roma	10.05.2007		
Set de medalii dedicate aniversării a 10 ani de la reînfiinţarea Muzeului Băncii Naţionale a României	25.04.2007		
Set de 3 medalii care reproduc desenele proiectelor monedelor pe care intenţiona să le emită Alexandru Ioan Cuza în anul 1860	25.04.2007		

Set de 4 replici din aur după monede româneşti emise în anul 1867	25.04.2007		
Centenarul naşterii lui Mircea Eliade	26.03.2007		
Nicolae Bălcescu	22.01.2007		
Aderarea României la Uniunea Europeană	03.01.2007		

Nominalizarea oraşului Sibiu drept "Capitală Culturală Europeană în anul 2007"	11.12.2006		
Biserica de la Densuş	13.11.2006		
Istoria aurului - Tezaurul de la Cucuteni Băiceni	16.10.2006		
Replică după un sestert emis de împăratul Traian	18.09.2006		
Replică după un aureus emis de împăratul Hadrian	18.09.2006		
Replică după un aureus emis de împăratul Traian	18.09.2006		
Replică după un denar emis de împăratul Traian	18.09.2006		
350 de ani de la ridicarea Catedralei Patriarhale	04.09.2006		
150 de ani de la internaţionalizarea regimului juridic al Dunării şi înfiinţarea			

Comisiei Europene a Dunării	21.08.2006		
Monumente de artă feudală creştină - Biserica de lemn din Ieud-Deal	24.07.2006		
Replică după moneda-medalie emisă de Constantin Brâncoveanu în anul 1713	19.05.2006		
140 de ani de la înfiinţarea Academiei Române	31.03.2006		
100 de ani de la naşterea lui Grigore Vasiliu-Birlic	27.12.2005		
Istoria aurului - Tezaurul de la Perşinari	05.12.2005		

50 de ani de la trecerea în eternitate a lui George Enescu	26.09.2005		
125 de ani de la înfiinţarea Băncii Naţionale a României	08.04.2005		
Istoria monedei - replică după moneda dacică de tip koson	21.02.2005		
Istoria monedei - replică după primul pol românesc	01.01.2005		
Eugeniu Carada - fondatorul Băncii Naţionale a României	01.01.2005		

Istoria aurului - engolpion cantacuzin	29.11.2004		
Universitatea din Bucureşti - 140 de ani de la înfiinţare	27.09.2004		
Anghel Saligny - 150 de ani de la naştere	13.09.2004		
Monumente de artă feudală creştină - set de două monede (Biserica Mânăstirii Cotroceni, Biserica Sf. Trei Ierarhi din Iaşi)	05.07.2004	 	
500 de ani de la moartea domnitorului Ştefan cel Mare	19.04.2004		
55 de ani de la înfiinţarea Organizaţiei Atlanticului de Nord (NATO)	24.03.2004		
Centenarul Societăţii Numismatice Române	22.12.2003		

Anul internaţional al apei pure - Rezervaţia biosferei Delta Dunării - set de trei monede	27.11.2003		
625 de ani de la începerea construcţiei Castelului Bran	20.10.2003		
500 de ani de la înfiinţarea Episcopiei Râmnicului	22.09.2003		
150 de ani de la naşterea compozitorului Ciprian Porumbescu	21.07.2003		
Istoria aurului - Vulturul de la Apahida	14.03.2003		
Monumente de artă feudală creştină - set de trei monede (Mânăstirea Bistriţa, Biserica Colţea, Palatul Mogoşoaia)	16.12.2002		

80 de ani de la fondarea Şcolii Române de la Roma	29.11.2002		
Rezervaţii şi parcuri naţionale ale României - set de trei monede	16.09.2002		
200 de ani de la naşterea scriitorului, lingvistului şi omului politic Ion Heliade Rădulescu 1802 - 1872	27.05.2002		
150 de ani de la naşterea dramaturgului şi prozatorului Ion Luca Caragiale	11.03.2002		

Istoria aurului - Tezaurul de la Pietroasa - set de patru monede	20.12.2001		
Pionieri ai aviaţiei române - set de trei monede	31.08.2001		
1900 de ani de la primul război daco-roman	04.06.2001		
135 de ani de la înfiinţarea Academiei Române	02.04.2001		

125 de ani de la naşterea sculptorului Constantin Brâncuşi	15.03.2001		
2000 de ani de creştinism	27.12.2000		
600 de ani de la urcarea pe tronul Moldovei a lui Alexandru cel Bun	02.10.2000		
400 de ani de la unirea Ţării Româneşti, Transilvaniei şi Moldovei sub Mihai Viteazul	01.08.2000		
150 de ani de la naşterea poetului Mihai Eminescu	24.04.2000		
Istoria aurului - Coif de aur de la Poiana Coţofeneşti	24.12.1999		
100 de ani de la Expediţia antarctică a navei Belgica 1897-1899 cu participarea naturalistului român Emil Racoviţă	25.08.1999		

Eclipsa totală de Soare din data de 11 august 1999	11.08.1999		
Vizita Sanctităţii Sale Papa Ioan Paul II în România 7-9 mai 1999	07.05.1999		
125 de ani de la stingerea din viaţă a mitropolitului Andrei Şaguna	30.12.1998		
Aniversarea independenţei de stat a României	21.12.1998		
Aniversarea Marii Uniri de la 1 Decembrie 1918	01.12.1998		
150 de ani de la Revoluţia Română de la 1848	29.07.1998		

Campionatul mondial de fotbal Franţa 1998	01.06.1998		
Jocurile olimpice de iarnă Nagano 1998 - 3 monede (bob, patinaj artistic, slalom)	19.02.1998		
Inaugurarea Muzeului BNR	04.05.1997		
Semicentenarul Fondului Naţiunilor Unite pentru Copii - UNICEF	24.04.1997		

Conferinţa mondială F.A.O. Roma 1996 - set	11.11.1996	
Jocurile Olimpice Atlanta 1996	31.07.1996	

115 ani de la înfiinţarea BNR	31.07.1996		
Campionatul european de fotbal Anglia 1996 - set	14.06.1996		

50 de ani de la înfiinţarea F.A.O.	15.12.1995	 	